

# Public Libraries

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## Some Aspects of Library Progress\*

Alice S. Tyler, president of A. L. A., 1920-1921.

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When the ancient and honorable profession of librarianship became adapted to the needs of the new continent and the new age in America, a new profession developed out of the old. The underlying principle of the new order was universal intelligence. The colonists brought with them books and libraries quite out of proportion to their other worldly goods and it was inevitable that the descendants of such men should foster public collections of books for the use of all the people. Methods were necessarily developed to meet these needs and conditions.

As the great experiment in democracy has developed, the adaptation of books to democratic needs is recognized as essential. All who have to do with book distribution in this country,—not only librarians, but authors, literary workers, publishers and book-sellers, recognize the service books should render to the varied conditions of American life. To reach, by means of the printed page, the thought and emotions of those who read, while the schools face the task of reducing the appalling number of the illiterate, is task enough for the united purpose and energy of all forward looking people who have personal contact with books in any relation.

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\*Synopsis of presidential address at A. L. A. meeting, Swampscott, Mass.

The library, however, has a distinctive and special responsibility as a public institution, supported by public funds. It is obligated to provide for the mental and intellectual well-being of the community. It must conserve and develop public taste. It should be the clearing house for ideas. To foster idealism and to strengthen the struggling aspirations of the human spirit is the very essence of the library's service as an institution.

Has the library a constructive program to counteract the overwhelming distractions of amusement and entertainment of the present moment? Can it become vocal and active in stimulating the reading and discussion of books that arouse thought? Has the library become socially conscious as an institution? This is answered when we realize the service of the modern city library and when we recall the historic library service to our soldiers and sailors during the great war.

Some have said that the intangible medium with which we deal,—thought recorded in books,—is an obstacle to an active, dynamic projection of library service; that the library's place must be secondary and not primary in the great scheme of education. Possibly some writers of books on social institutions share this view, as the library is seldom included as a factor in such books. It is clear that there should be

more definite and frequent presentation of the library's contribution to the larger purposes of education and its responsibility in stimulating and extending the use of books. One after another certain achievements have been realized by the library in the slow stages of progress,—tax support, state responsibility for library extension, free access to books, the library the heart of university life, book service to the home by means of neighborhood libraries or home delivery, work with children and schools, the business and research library, rural book service,—only to push forward to the goals ahead.

In a great social movement there is always pictured an ultimate triumph with the goal reached and labors ended, and the "destructive myth" of certain revolutionist philosophers provides no project for social organization after the tremendous finality of effort is accomplished. Possibly we may be cherishing a creative or constructive myth, for, in common with all who hold higher conceptions of education, are we not seeking to banish ignorance and create a literate, thinking world of universal intelligence? The unattainable, some may say, but an inspiring aim in which the imagination may picture the inexpressible beauty, joy and unlimited growth and accomplishments of the human soul, untrammelled by ignorance, blindness and superstition.

Meantime our feet are upon the earth, our immediate tasks are practical and possible of accomplishment, and thru our great professional organization, the American Library Association, our progress is sure.

Organizations, if growing and vital, must constantly change and adapt themselves to meet the rising needs which express the progressive spirit of man. The A. L. A. is not an exception. It has sought to "promote the welfare of libraries in America." It has mastered new obligations as they have arisen and during the Great War met a tremendous patriotic duty worthily and with honor.

Weaknesses of the organization need to be corrected, many of them inherent in any organization of national scope. Work must be done thru committees and attention has been called, during the year, to the lack of definite provision for these in the *Constitution and By-laws*; also the overlapping of duties and the desirability of utilizing more definitely the results of committee activities. Sometimes both a section of the A. L. A. and a committee are engaged in the study of the same subject and such duplication of effort is questioned. Might not the sections become our "experiment stations" in careful investigation of certain phases of library work? Should we not in some way measure our activities, providing specific items, instead of dealing in "glittering generalities" as to what is being accomplished or what may be expected? Where could we find a "picked group" better adapted than the Lending section to undertake studies of time, fatigue and motion, in connection with loan desk processes? Or, the Catalog section for similar studies? What other group could attempt with such understanding and knowledge, a study of the child's reaction to types of literature, the handicaps of the printed page for those who find the mechanics of reading difficult, etc., etc.

To assemble sufficient data upon which to base accurate statements is recognized as a great need. To translate figures into living realities is a science, and after the statistics are secured, a library "actuary" is needed to give us the facts so much needed, convincingly to provide us with the means and the workers by which to make books freely accessible to all the people. The *Survey Committee of Five*, with its far-reaching program, will reveal what is being done and give us a vision of the larger tasks ahead.

Our imaginations are stirred in the thought of this great national organization, with each member contributing in greater or less degree to the tremendous educational task of the day and hour,—a richer, fuller individual life for every one.

## Making the Dry Side of Cataloging Interesting\*

Frances Rathbone Coe, head of catalog department, Massachusetts state library

Let us talk under two heads:

1. The cataloger's opportunities.
2. The catalog department, its relation to the library; its organization to develop creative enthusiasm.

### Part. 1. The cataloger's opportunities.

In the collection of the Massachusetts state library, where there are no books of fiction, practically none on art, none on music, little travel besides exploration, guidebooks or very authoritative local descriptions, little pure literature save the great standards, and practically no frivolous or chatty biographies, the cataloging of the collection might be described as "rattling the dry bones of dusty books!" But when we take the relations of human beings as our province, every book assumes something of the spirit of romance, fits into its niche in the mosaic in a fascinating way and cataloging has no dry side! Human nature appears everywhere. In the collection of genealogy, catalogers discover a pride that does not vision *noblesse oblige*, in the genealogies that hark back to great names and great estates, but dwindles down to insipid faces, having lost faces of character and strength by the way. But we discover other genealogies which began with the log cabin and struggle,—profited by the effort and grew into not only material success but positions of respect and note. All forms of conceit and personal pride and many forms of thoroness, sumptuousness and true greatness and beauty are uncovered in these volumes. The church histories of Boston similarly lay bare many a trial of conscience, a split on a belief, a feud over church property or a charitable fund, all betokening convictions that with dignity did not hesitate to bring the matter to the surface, and to general discussion if need be. Then government,—man's effort to live amicably with man. What an imagination its history discloses! Yet what fol-

lows we are! The State library cataloger finds there is fashion even in state departments! An idea appears in Iowa, then it crops up in Minnesota. It appears again in Rhode Island. Now it is on the Pacific Coast. She follows that idea thru state after state, and by it, is invited to lump together under Boards of Control reports of institutions that shortly ago were separates. The Bay state set the fashion in commissions for uniform state laws, and six or more other states are now following suit. All this is in an effort towards an ideal, and each time shows a deeper tendency to realize the answer to the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Dealing with documents is of all things most vital.

We soon learn that cataloging is not merely an arrangement of words upon cards. We find ourselves unexpectedly thrown into the human interests and ideas of the time which perhaps have little relation to the matter in hand, but which like murder, will out! There is much of the joy of creation in presenting books well on catalog cards, in showing their contribution to the history of mankind. One must see a book in its larger values and in perspective to so relate it to its subject. Yet one must see it in detail in relation to the special library of which it is to become a part, to bring out its valuable individual points. This power of analysis stretches the faculties, develops judgment and a sense of proportion. Not all crafts combine largeness of vision with accuracy in detail. Oftener they require all technic; or, creative and executive work which does not assure thoroness and accuracy. One ought to be thoro, but it cannot be tested. In cataloging, it can be checked in revision, and is. The sloppy mind is constantly being pulled up; or the brilliant but wandering mind is being held to the bench. The character that is so essential if one aims at large usefulness in library work can nowhere be better hammered into lasting form than thru

\*Read at Swampscott, in Catalog section.

the accuracy, memory, patience, persistence, neatness and thoroughness (can I have omitted any Christian virtues?) required in a catalog department.

Who would not put herself under training for a year or two? If she frankly analyzes her own abilities and tastes she will doubtless find that there are two distinct types of persons who take up library work and all the combinations of these two. There is 1), the person who loves people and books, who is naturally executive, but to whom detail is irksome and wearing; and 2), she who is strongly drawn to books but is not so interested in people. She may be diffident and so dread meeting people, or she may become nervous or exasperated over the on-rush of the Dear Public and its idiosyncracies. In any case, whether a library school graduate or not, she could lay no better foundation for a career than plan to spend two years in a live progressive catalog department. Let her take this experience early if she aims for other fields of library work; take it after two years of meeting the public and general library experience,—that she may not be narrow,—if cataloging is to be her specialty. Neither girl will lose by it, for there are *personal* advantages in such a training. Is it unprofessional to mention them? In an emergency, cataloging is like a trade. It is always in demand and a good cataloger commands a livable salary. One only gives out technic. The rest is a constant means of personal growth. By contrast, in many crafts one gives thru the day of one's store and must increase that store of knowledge during spare time. Then, too, as good conversation is largely a matter of well-chosen topics, the person who all day culls the very kernel out of many kinds of books has the opportunity of becoming a good conversationalist, without being bookish, if she will.

So let me say to the ambitious worker who aims for a career, lay broad your foundations for at the top you will be called upon to be not just a cataloger; not just one with aptitudes for meeting the public; not just an administrator who

shows uncertainties when details are brought to earth. The big person combines the qualities of all three. And the time to conquer the technic of cataloging is early. There is today sufficient demand for persons of ability and experience to warrant a young woman in laying her plans carefully, in asking advice as to her personal abilities and latent powers and then in trying for the next step she should take, in the kind of library in which she should take it. She must be able to make good, and professionally she should stay long enough to give an adequate return for the experience gained. But I believe she would find librarians responsive to her aims. In *cataloging* there is an opportunity for a career that warrants preparation. It lies in becoming head of a catalog department if one is executive; or, after a cataloging experience in a public library, in specializing if one has special tastes and equipment, technic plus art, languages, finance, government, insurance, or law—and such special libraries awakening to the need of a cataloger year by year.

**Part 2. The relation of the catalog department to the library; its organization to develop creative enthusiasm.**

Time was (during the closed-shelf period in libraries when passing out books was mostly routine),—that the best chance for scholarly work in a library was in the catalog department, and the ambition of nearly every library assistant, as I knew them, was to do cataloging. At that period in the public library's development, the "open shelf" was a radical idea, and just being tested out here and there. This open shelf and all in its train may account for the dearth of catalogers, because the drudgery and physical fatigue of paging for books (chosen by a borrower thru a catalog), gradually ceased, and suggestive inspiring work in personal contact with the borrowers took its place. Branch libraries, open-shelf also, replaced the dreary delivery stations, which a third of the time presented a book already read—and the enthusiasm of modern li-



brary work began. The children's room, again open-shelf, followed this; then the story-hour, and picture bulletins, and clubs, and book-talks, and Christmas exhibits, and staff-meetings, and,—does anyone wonder that all this human interest and opportunity for creative self-expression replaced the attraction of the book alone, behind the scenes, tied up in technical detail?

But it *is* a loadstone—the loadstone. Of such are libraries builded, and all the human interest is thrown into confusion if the special book needed cannot be brought, by means of the catalog.

Why are not library workers turning towards cataloging as in the past? (Let me speak frankly, if we are in earnest in our desire to solve this problem). It is in a way, the old problem of capital and labor—one plans and the other carries out. One has all the fun, and the other simply sews a fine seam. How can we give this fun of creation, of responsibility, of initiative to each one of our catalogers, or put her in a way of attaining to it? I never heard of the *head* of a catalog department wanting to give up her work. Did you? *She* has plenty of problems to solve. Life has no monotony for *her*! Cannot we so plan our department that the work of each experienced assistant may be creative in some line, altho it includes much routine in other lines? Cannot we relate her more fully to the general work of the library and so bring out latent powers? How can we best use the cataloger for the benefit of the whole library and how can the whole library best contribute in concentrated time to equip her for her work?

There is no surer way to find the uses to which a book may be put than the cataloging of it. Then why not give its cataloger a chance to apply what she has discovered by turning her into the reference department for a time? It seems logical and is efficient. It is today done by many progressive libraries. By this means she will seize upon analytics to be made, will choose subject headings and cross-references, to fit questions as

she finds they are asked. She will even arrange books on the shelves to bring together material oftenest used together. Therefore assign her to reference work during the most crowded hours, let her help when the help is most needed, and let her so gain the most experience in the shortest time away from her cataloging. She thus gives to others of her expert knowledge and absorbs from the contact, human interest and enthusiasm. For I am persuaded that one reason library workers avoid the choice of cataloging is that it is not sufficiently related to the whole work of the library.

Suppose in imagination, we free ourselves for the moment from any library customs that omit evening work for the catalog staff, or that hold sacred certain lines of work to certain persons, and cut a horizontal line thru these perpendiculars which will extend across into all departments of the library. Cogitations upon this idea will perhaps lead to an arranging of our work so that less experienced people, possibly borrowed from the circulating department, may carry on every process of cataloging of which each is capable, at a less financial cost, and so leave only the difficult parts for the catalogers, trained in technic. This plan in the munition factories, the English called "deletion." It is using each person to the best of her ability and training, by analyzing processes, and so is a spur to each. And it is using funds to the best of *our* ability. The plan sorts out processes with a clear distinction between clerical and technical, giving increased responsibilities in both lines. It leaves for the trained catalogers the concentrated intellectual joy of presenting the book from all sides as far as needed,—upon a form with printed headings and it draws from the whole staff of the library every member having sufficient intellectual equipment to do the preliminary work in cataloging. The whole staff thus gains a new respect for the book and an appreciation of the scholarship expressed in the catalog, while the intensive training and revision of work they undergo develops thruout the li-

brary a new accuracy in detail. The return for this drawing upon the general staff will come in the reference work given from the catalog department. Thru this process of rotation, the head of the catalog department has opportunity to discover embryo catalogers, and the expert catalogers swing again into line for a more varied experience. In this plan, a form with printed headings is used by the cataloger from which the typist presents the completed card. Classification, subject headings, cross-references and analytics are all chosen by one person. One person's examination of the book suffices, save for the reviser. And the cataloger proof-reads the cards when typed.

Catalogers who have worked under a classifier, and who have been classifier as well as cataloger find the latter plan much more interesting. Let us add to this the assignment of one subject to each cataloger for which she is responsible. Responsibilities add zest, and if the cataloging of all books on a subject is assigned to one person, unity of treatment is secured for the library, and an increased interest and speed to the cataloger. If possible, ask her to bring suggestions for purchase to round out her subject. This would require her consideration of old books as well as a scanning of the book-reviews, yet it can but increase her interest and reference value to the library. Periodic revision of the shelves holding her subject and of her subject headings in the catalog will keep her mind keen for much or little subdivision and for the elimination of unnecessary subheads, by cross references.

A study of the psychology of human nature leads us to realize that no one, least of all an intelligent trained worker, likes simply to grind ahead without seeing the vision. One can stand much monotony if one can look beyond while doing it—can know the year's aim; the financial difficulties (there always are such); can be sure a suggestion is welcome even if it cannot always be applied. In short, if by staff-meetings or otherwise, the cataloger is taken into the confidence of the heads as far as may be

and given a chance to contribute her individual best to the work we all believe in, the confidence increases her power, and develops loyalty to the institution. For the trouble is not a matter of salaries alone. Working customs and conditions, the *esprit de corps*, and the chance to give one's best, without having one's ambitions stifled will go far indeed towards holding the continuity of a staff and toward attracting the new ambitious workers mentioned earlier in this paper.

We choose the members of our staff with care as to personality, training, experience. We want them to feel that we respect and value that individuality as much while with us as we did in proffering the position. If we are sincere in this, we are interested in their personal development and advancement. If a good opening comes for which one or another is fitted we shall surely let her know of it. It is but honest. Many a time she refuses it, but it is well for her to know her worth, and for her librarian to have a chance to inform his trustees. It tends towards her contentment, but it is not lethe. A putting to sleep of her best ambitions and enthusiasms for the sake of continuity I believe to be pernicious. If we study each one, trying to know her latent power, and then to learn her own wish and ambition, we can retain as long as we can advance the best catalogers, and send to other fields those who would not be working out their own fullest selves in the intricacies of the dictionary catalog of today.

The economics of organization must justify themselves from a monetary and efficiency viewpoint, before we undertake to consider the advantages to the personnel. This accomplished, every consideration to the advantage and interest of the staff is warranted and desirable. It but remains for the heads of catalog departments, and librarians to see to it that those who choose to be catalogers are not allowed to fall into routine, are drawn into the library's whole work, developed for a larger field and advance to it, to make cataloging one of the attractive branches of library work today.

## Adventures Among Catalogs\*

Dr Louise Fargo Brown, associate professor of history, Vassar college

The invitation to address this Association came to me as an outsider; one who looks at a catalog not with the proud eyes of a creator, but with those of the famished, meek, spineless and apparently boneless little figure so dear to the cartoonist: the General Public,—or, as he is at present more frequently called, the Ultimate Consumer. I am asked to tell a tale of adventure, of deeds of derring do; of long hours of stern and relentless pursuit; of the happy moment when the quarry seems within arm's reach, only to vanish at the fatal sign post: *see also*. I have, indeed, had adventures among catalogs; adventures many and various, and have come out unscarred; or nearly so. Such secret wounds as my soul may bear I shall not expose to you, but will confine myself to the narration of those adventures only which have had an ending entirely happy.

To begin with, I refuse to be classed wholly as an outsider. Many years ago—so many that their tale shall remain a secret between myself and your chairman here, who was accessory both before and after the fact—I spent a year in library service, and was by her great kindness admitted to the penetralia where the new-molded members of the catalog are to be seen in all their primitive undress, and I, even I, was permitted not only to behold the articulation achieved, but in minor ways to aid in the process.

Thus when in later days my profession brought me in constant contact with catalogs, I was able to bring to them an eye not altogether untrained, and an appreciation to some extent, at least, sympathetic. Consequently I was not lost in that maze of error, at the heart of which is the firm belief that the end and aim of all catalogers is to hide away so securely the traces of the books which are the catalog's reason for existence, that they may escape all but the most persistent

seekers, and abide at peace upon their shelves.

This is one of the dearest delusions of the public, and will be abandoned only as the result of much educational work. It is fostered by encounters with those portions of the catalog which are the result of flawless and perfect logic. My own most memorable experience of the sort was with that monumental work, the catalog of the British Museum. I was hunting for the publications of a certain historical society and found no entry under the society's name. Appeal to the authorities disclosed that I should have sought under the general head of *Academies*, and under that, under the place of publication—which I didn't know, and discovered only after considerable further search. I believe it is this sort of thing that leads to remarks such as one I overheard the other day: "Catalogers' minds don't work the way ours do."

Needless to say I do not subscribe to that opinion. Aside from its lack of scientific basis, it is not the result of reasoned observation. No student who depends for his material upon a library is ignorant of the difference to his work, his time and his patience whether the library is well cataloged or not. After a year of working on the Continent with manuscript catalogs, printed catalogs with supplements 1, 2, and 3 (the last ten years old), and no catalogs at all, I remember my emotions when a proud librarian showed me what I suppose was the first card catalog in Europe. I think the cards were about fourteen inches long by ten deep, and as that was twelve years ago, I presume that library has by now erected a separate building for its catalog, or, failing that, been obliged to choose between housing the cards and housing the books.

But to turn to adventures nearer home. I have for my sins worked in college libraries where the staff allows itself to be bullied by members of the faculty, and places a book bought with the funds

\*Read at the meeting of the Catalog section, A. L. A., June 21, 1921.

of the department of philosophy among the philosophical works, even when it is purely historical, and as much out of place there as a lamb among wolves. I have had access to the stacks in great libraries which cling to antiquated or arbitrary systems of classification, and have wasted hours of time and stores of energy tramping from sub-cellar to roof because books which were born brothers had been separated from the cradle. And I have on those occasions wished that some efficiency expert could be set to computing the dollars wasted in even ill-compensated time, thru the peregrinations of members of the staff with a sheaf of slips handed in by a single scholar who wished to consult works which should logically be found on one floor and stack and actually were scattered far and wide. On the other hand, I have had the pleasure of standing before a stack holding books on, let us say, seventeenth century English history, and finding there new contributions to the subject which had not yet turned up among the reviews, and whose existence I would not have discovered for months had not a cataloger of discrimination placed them there, and not among sociological treatises. As long as reviews continue to lag months and even years behind dates of publication, and serious works are not sufficiently profitable to be advertised, the student will bless the cataloger who saves his time, his patience and his legs by putting together books which belong together.

And just so long will he welcome the opportunity of telling catalogers of his gratitude and appreciation, and of his recognition of the value of their work and the importance of its being in the hands of persons of wide knowledge and discrimination. An illustration of the educational possibilities of their work is provided by another of my adventures. Chancing in one library to find G. Lowes Dickinson's *Letters of a Chinese Official* classed with books on Chinese history, I chuckled and shared what I thought the joke with one of the authorities, remarking that I supposed I would find Mon-

tesquieu's Persian letters with histories of Persia. Later I found the book returned to the same shelf and on inquiry was told that in the absence of the head cataloger, the *locum tenens*, having found it classed with Chinese history in the revered catalog of the such-and-such library, had decreed that for the present it remain where it was. What was the ultimate fate of the volume I know not, but on reflection I recognized a genuine problem. Here is a book whose author, wishing to satirize certain tendencies of western civilization, does so in the person of an oriental, and with such skill as to deceive some of the reviewers. In making his points, he brings out very effectively certain characteristics of the Chinese people and certain phases of Chinese history. Is it not useful, then, among books on that subject? On the other hand, the casual reader may not be superior to the reviewers, and may think he is reading a Chinaman's views of his own country. If it had been in a college library, the student might use it as such in a class paper. Yes, but this trap for the unwary would then furnish a useful bit of education for the college student, whose instructor will improve the occasion by lecturing him on the necessity for scrutinizing his sources. But what of the student of political institutions who would profit by finding the book on the shelves cheek by jowl with less diverting studies of the subject? And finally, what of consistency, since this book belongs to a class to which writers of many nations and several ages have contributed political satire identical in spirit, purpose and form?

Obviously, it is impossible to state arbitrarily that this book belongs in one particular class and no other. What I feel it is permissible to state, is that the cataloger should have asked himself all these questions and then some others, and answered them not according to the so-and-so standard, but according to the probable best good of the particular public of his particular library. What really troubles me is the reference to the catalog of the such-and-such library. Does

such a query indicate an increasing standardization of your profession? Does it mean that cataloging is on the way to becoming a profession so standardized, so stereotyped, so cut and dried, that as a career it no longer makes a strong appeal to the mentally-alert, the restless-minded, the widely-read, book-loving young person? If that is the case it would seem to me to be very unfortunate. For I believe that the work of the cataloger presents possibilities practically limitless. With the release from the mechanical drudgery that has come from such useful standardization as the Library of Congress card, the staff ought to be freed for the development of the individual library along individual lines. Undoubtedly this is already being done, and it is only because of the lack of funds and time that the work has not already gone farther and faster.

For two years in a college library where all the shelves were open to students, I have watched its use and have come to the conclusion that there is no question about its being the greatest single educational influence in the institution. And the part that the cataloger has played in this result is no mean one. Here as everywhere it is the imponderables that count. Who can measure the effect of the book casually taken from the shelf by the student who is really in search of such and such a book by so and so? And it is there because a discerning cataloger willed that it should be.

And altho I have spoken chiefly of classification, and have had in mind especially the open shelf library, the argument is equally strong where only the catalog is accessible to the public, but when efficient cataloging has seen to it that books are so entered and analyzed that they will be accessible under every head where they will be of genuine use. I refuse to be amused at the cataloger who entered the account of the Black Death under the heading *Contagious diseases*, until I am quite sure it did not contain information about the bubonic plague which might be useful to the searcher investigating epidemics. I feel

like offering my service for a drive to raise funds for the further endowment of cataloging departments in all libraries, when I think of the hours of going thru Poole and his fellows, and the subsequent hours of looking up references therein to articles practically valueless, which have been saved me by those few well-endowed libraries where one finds cataloged the really important articles which appear in periodicals. What a useful development for the college library would be such an analysis kept abreast of the month, of literary and scientific periodicals; a discriminating analysis, which would thresh out the chaff sedulously preserved in Poole.

I realize that in your profession as in mine, development is hampered by lack of funds, which results in the turning away of workers to better paid fields, the over-driving of the well-equipped and the unemployment of the poorly-equipped. Just as the public must be taught to recognize that the effectiveness of the professor's work cannot be measured in terms of student hours, it must be taught to recognize that more money devoted to the cataloging department would mean that the catalog would become more fruitful and pleasanter reading for the public. It must come to see that when errors crop up, such as the inclusion of a work on the press gang in a list of books on the newspaper press, they are likely to be the result of the fact that in an understaffed library, work that requires skill must sometimes be handed over to raw recruits, and checked up by specialists fatigued from hours unduly long. It should know that the cataloger, if his work is to be satisfactory to himself and to others, needs and must be given time to read the critical reviews that will apprise him of the nature and worth of the books which he must catalog and which he obviously cannot read from cover to cover, even if he could bring to the consideration of each, special scholarship from all fields. He must be given time to acquaint himself with special fields. If the cataloger be not always a scholar, he should be fitted to



be, at least, in Henry Adams' phrase, the stable companion of scholars. And that means, as with the scholar, the daily education that ends only with life.

A young Serbian, this last year a student at Vassar College, wrote in an English theme on her impressions in her new life: "I enter the library as a believer enters his shrine." To those of us whose admission into the fellowship of books is not of such recent date, a phrase like this comes as a much-needed reminder. To us the library catalog is a thing so familiar, so every day an affair, that we do not hesitate to make jokes about it, to get impatient at it, and to treat it as "a thing of naught." But what if the race of catalogers, discouraged thru lack of appreciation, should indeed disappear? What would it profit to be the heirs of

all the ages if the clue that guides us thru the labyrinth of the ages' thought should disappear? Suppose that books should come to be arranged according to size, shape, or color of binding! The thought is too disconcerting. In something akin to terror, we turn to the librarians and cry out: "Oh guardians of the temple! What would be the fate of the believers should not the candles which light the way to the shrine be always trimmed and burning? Train up young acolytes to the service, and see that they be given all honor and praise, due reward, and full opportunity to broaden their usefulness and independence in solving special problems. For if their lights grow dim, helpless and bemused will be the believer who enters the shrine."

### Libraries and the Nation\*

Hon. H. M. Towner, M. C., from Iowa

The most important work in which a democracy can engage is the education of its citizens. A free government implies free choice and a nation can be wisely governed only when it is intelligently governed.

At first, the public school was not considered as a proper governmental activity. Each man was supposed to educate his own children at his own expense, but it was soon found that an illiterate was both a burden and a menace to the community and to the state. The result was the establishment of public schools supported by general taxation.

A part, and a necessary part, of the education of the people are public libraries. The same reasons which justify the support of free public schools by general taxation justify the establishment and support of free public libraries. They, like the schools, are necessary to the securing of an intelligent citizenship. In a measure, the development of public libraries in the United States has

been like that of the public schools. First came the establishment of private and college libraries, then followed free public libraries supported by general taxation. It has come to be generally recognized that libraries are part of the educational system, and that library service should be given to every community as a part of such a system. This recognition has not yet developed into anything like its full requirements. Free public libraries should be furnished for young and old alike in every community in the nation. With full recognition of the necessity in the United States of an educated citizenship and of the necessity of school and library service to secure such a result, some of the difficulties in our present system may be considered.

Despite the development of our public school system and the large increase in the number of public libraries, the amount of illiteracy in the United States is not only disgraceful but dangerous. In a free country, its safety is jeopardized when a large proportion of its voters can not read the ballots they cast and only know how to vote as they are told.

\*Condensed from address on June 22 at Swampscott.

Closely connected with the task of removing illiteracy is the Americanization of immigrants. We have now about fifteen millions foreign population in the United States and a very large proportion of these are either partially or totally unacquainted with our language and with our institutions. This makes them the ready dupes of the designing trouble-makers and enemies of our government. The problem of Americanization is mainly an educational problem. It is admittedly a difficult problem and one that has so far been hardly attempted.

Another and very serious difficulty confronts both the schools and the libraries because of the inadequate compensation paid teachers and librarians. Thousands of schools have been closed for want of teachers. Nearly 300,000 of the 700,000 teachers in the United States have no professional training whatever for their work. Many libraries are in the hands of librarians without any technical training whatever. The principal cause of this is that teachers and librarians are paid less wages than are paid in any other occupation.

In order to remedy existing conditions and to meet fully the demand for a greater effort to strengthen and enlarge the educational activities of the nation it will need the combined effort of the nation, the state and the community. Every adult born in America should at least receive a common school education. And it is a national problem as well as a state and local problem to meet these requirements. The National Government has never given full recognition to education. In fact, it is almost the only nation of the world which has not made education one of the primary departments of the government with its head a member of the cabinet or ministry. We should create a department of education with a secretary in the president's cabinet. Besides, the national government should make appropriations from the national treasury to aid and encourage the states to meet the demands of the present emergency. It is manifest

that such stimulation and aid is greatly needed.

It is objected that to create a department of education will transfer the control of education from the states to the nation. This objection is not valid. We have created a department of labor but the national government makes no effort to control labor. We have created a department of agriculture but the nation makes no effort to control agriculture thru this department. The department of education may aid and encourage the states without in any manner controlling them and this should be done.

It is urged that the stronger states should not be called upon to aid the weaker states who ought to educate their own children. It is a sufficient answer to this objection to say that if the nation has such an interest in the education of the people of all the states as to warrant appropriations for that purpose then such action is justified. It is certainly apparent that the nation has a vital and immediate interest in the intelligence and health of every citizen of every state. The whole is no stronger than its parts.

The cost to the government is urged against additional appropriations. It must be admitted that it is always necessary, in considering the claims for appropriations, to select those which are most needed and most important. There is nothing in our scheme of government more important than the education of the public. Whatever else may be left out education can not be excluded.

If illiteracy in a national peril, if ignorance of our language and institutions is a source of danger, if unjustifiable inequalities of educational opportunities exist in our land, if our young men called to the service are incapacitated because of their ignorance of the ordinary rules of health, if schools are being closed for want of teachers and almost one-half are being taught by incompetent teachers, then it can fairly be claimed that national aid for education is justified and necessary.

## The Nation's Appetite for Fiction \*

Herbert F. Jenkins, of Little, Brown & Company, Boston

With all the competition of the movies, the phonograph and the flivver, there are enough romantic stenographers, leisurely housewives and tired business men to encourage the writing and publishing of a large annual crop of novels. This crop varies somewhat in size and character from year to year but there is unmistakably a steadily growing market for the product of the imaginative pen and I contend that the average quality of the crop shows gradual improvement.

From the earliest days, the magazines printed stories, but never before the present decade have there been so many weekly and monthly periodicals printing so large a proportion of fiction. There are novels published today as serials that would have been considered too high-brow for popular magazine readers a score of years ago. Edith Wharton's novel, "The Age of Innocence," a best seller, which won the Columbia University prize of \$1,000 as the best novel of 1920, appeared serially in a woman's magazine last year prior to book publication.

Novels by John Galsworthy, Arnold Bennet, H. G. Wells, Blasco Ibanez, and Joseph Hergesheimer, written primarily for book publication, may be first read in popular periodicals.

Newspapers which a score of years ago found no room for book calibre fiction now reprint from day to day instalments of creditable novels, along with comic strips, movie chat and advice to the lovelorn.

Twenty to twenty-five years ago the best sellers were Quo Vadis, Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush, David Harum, Eben Holden, When Knighthood Was in Flower, To Have and to Hold, Janice Meredith and Richard Carvel. The popularity of the historical romance and the "by-gosh" novel has long since departed—with no signs of returning.

During the period that followed, the reading masses for the most part re-

mained loyal to Winston Churchill, who, however, soon wrote on more timely themes; it adopted for a brief space of time Alice Hegan Rice of the Cabbage Patch fame; and also Mrs Barclay, the author of The Rosary; it obtained a taste of good western fiction in The Virginian and has been reading cowboy stories—good, bad and indifferent—ever since.

This more recent period marked the advent of Harold Bell Wright and Gene Stratton Porter, the twin stars of the popular fiction firmament, the former with a total sale of 7,250,000 up to the first of the year, and the latter with a record of 8,132,432 up to date. Both are still writing to vast audiences. This was the period of the greatest popularity of the late Eleanor H. Porter, whose two Pollyanna books, with a combined sale of 753,000, established the Pollyanna school of fiction. Zane Grey, was king of best sellers of 1920, with his million copies annually, or, as his publishers express it, the American public apparently spent some \$1,500,000 for his books last year. There is O. Henry who did not live to witness the popularity of his volumes of stories,—now past the 4,500,000 mark. The increasing vogue of Joseph G. Lincoln's Cape Code stories has resulted in a demand for approximately 2,500,000. The American sales alone of E. Phillips Oppenheim exceed 2,000,000; while Mary Roberts Rinehart is in the 300,000 a year class.

If you lament because your patrons demand Ethel M. Dell or the Tarzan books, be heartened by the fact that Kipling sold to the extent of 2,000,000 volumes last year; that for the last four years the sales of Mark Twain's works aggregated 750,000 copies per year and that the new Conrad works now appear in best selling lists. Even the versatile and intellectual H. G. Wells once reached the multitude with "Mr Britling" as the figures of 245,000 attest, while more surprising is the statement that over 750,000 copies of "The Four Horsemen of the

\*Read at Swampscott, June 25.

Apocalypse" have been sold in English translation.

The popular success of the recent group of novels dealing with American small town life is considered significant by many and indeed the sale to date of 266,000 copies of "Main Street" is a remarkable achievement. I should like to believe that such sincere, veracious portrayals of our everyday life, written by literary artists like Sinclair Lewis, will continue to attract the larger reading public. It would be indeed gratifying but it would be expecting too much.

The inevitable demand for the novel of plot and incident, and the romance of love and adventure will persist so long as books are read; and there will always be a large following for a semi-religious novel or a love story, sugar-coated with high moral purpose.

What most readers seek when they select a novel for entertainment is to get out of themselves, to be transported into an almost fairy world, if necessary, or to revel in sentiment that they fail to find in their prosaic lives.

The fault of some masters of contemporary fiction, whose books are so cordially endorsed by the critics, is that while they please the few they lack the unexplicable touch of romance, or human interest to attract the many. The average man finds them dull; they are over his head. With all their artistic skill, they lack the spark of genius that gave Dickens, Scott and Dumas a universal appeal.

You can't popularize fiction above the understanding of the ordinary fiction reader.

Until the American literary taste is sufficiently educated to enable the run of fiction readers to really enjoy great qualities of style, subtle psychology and artistic endings, the popular authors will continue to furnish the entertainment. It is no inconsiderable achievement to win widespread appreciation. Rather than depreciate the authors who acquire and retain great popularity I would lament that the intellectuals, with their superior mental endowment, so seldom secure a hold on the larger fiction reading public.

### Ferments and Facts\*

Alfred Harcourt, president, Harcourt, Brace and Company

Despite a momentary tendency for nations to split up in a parochial spirit, the aftermath of the war finds us all in need of each other too much, economically and spiritually, for literature not to be more broadly international than ever before. From the downfall of Greece came the greatness of Rome, and from the chaos and peril of modern Europe we seem to be gaining, somehow, what may be the great era of our literature. Zola, Ibsen and Tolstoi begat Cannan, Bennett and Hardy and before the war the literature of England had developed a new and richer method and materials. Norris, Herrick and one or two others were all that this movement had to show in America. Now it seems from the titles

for which the public is clamoring at your loan desks, that the richest fruition of this tendency may come in the next ten years in this country.

On such topics as economics and the social sciences generally there is widespread intellectual ferment and questioning. Our nineteenth century civilization built up in every nation two groups which felt themselves to be almost two separate nations. They have been called the exploiters and the exploited. And things have so developed that there is an almost wider gulf between these two classes in one country than there is between the same classes in different countries. They read different papers and have different leaders in each country, but both classes read many of the same books, and they seem to trust

\*Abstract of a paper read before the A. L. A. convention, June 25.

the printed word bound in cloth covers more than they do the facts and opinions of the press. Our books in this realm must keep the rigorous logical methods and mental integrity of the old writers, but they must face the new facts and follow where they lead.

The next generation will be calling more than ever for new books, the war has suddenly made many of the writings of a generation ago sound out of date. We have a public ready to absorb many more books than ever before in our history. Our machinery of distribution is totally inadequate; a book of non-fiction is almost the hardest thing to buy conveniently. Abroad, practically every

town of one thousand population has its properly stocked bookstore or bookstall. One British concern alone has in England and Wales 250 bookstores, 750 main bookstalls, and 1,000 branch stalls. Compare this with the book distributing machinery in whatever section of the United States you know best, and the fundamental task for anyone interested in the writing, publishing or distribution of books in this country becomes apparent. Might not some libraries sell as well as loan books, and thus increase their service to the community and their revenues from, which their books and periodicals are bought and their salaries are paid?

## In the Letter Box

### A Chance to Help International Friendliness

A recent letter from Mr Crane, American minister at Prague, to the R. J. Caldwell Company, publishers of the *Foreign Press Service*, says:

I have received appeals from the English clubs of Prague and Pilzen for English books, magazines, newspapers, etc., and the fact that they come to me personally does not help very much. The problem of exchange makes it prohibitive for these people to subscribe for current American publications or to buy books. They are serious students, the interest in the English language is keen and their desire is to coöperate with America in every way they can as they are really interested in things American.

Can you suggest any source in America from which worth while books and magazines might be sent to Czecho-Slovakia? Any ideas you may have on the subject will be appreciated by me.

Here is a problem which might be met in many libraries that have duplicates of material sent to them for distribution or material which is unavailable for their communities but which might throw light on American ideas which these people so very far away and but lately come to political freedom would appreciate to the fullest extent.

One office, at least, is setting aside such material and from time to time will send it to the local Czecho-Slovakian consulate from whence it will go free of charge to its destination.

### An Oversight

To the Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The Providence public library has for the last 43 years made a point of publishing, in the daily newspapers, once a week, something of interest relating to the library, either a list of new additions, or references on some matter of current interest, or some other "live" matter.

It seems to have been one of these weekly lists of references which was mentioned in the May number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, on p. 275, as relating to "municipal activities in various cities." Formerly it was possible to obtain back numbers of daily newspapers within a period of several months after the date of publication, but it is so no longer; and, since the demand cannot be supplied in such instances, it would have been well if a mention of this list had been accompanied with a statement that it appeared only in a daily newspaper.

We have not been able to meet the requests which have been made for it.

WILLIAM E. FOSTER.



### A Chance to Help

I would like to note in PUBLIC LIBRARIES the fact that on June 27, I spoke to the Polish Sisters of St. Joseph at their Mother House in Stevens Point, Wis., on "How the public library can help the Sisters in their teaching." I was invited by the Reverend Mother General, who had been told by the Sisters who teach in Cleveland of the great help they get at the Broadway branch library.

I went to Stevens Point from Milwaukee, where I addressed the conference on Work with the foreign-born of the Episcopal church, on the "Pressing need of human contacts." But that was of trifling importance compared with the Polish visit, as the order furnishes teachers to Polish parochial schools practically all over the United States.

After my talk, alas! some of the teachers said they did not get very much sympathetic interest from the libraries they use. Of course, they were only a few, but it is a pity any should have that experience, isn't it? Hence this note.

ELEANOR E. LEDBETTER,  
Chairman A. L. A. committee on work with the foreign born.

### The Best Prose Similes

In order to stimulate a deeper interest in the effective use of English, Grenville Kleiser offers a prize of one hundred dollars for the best list of fifty prose similes, selected from standard authors.

The contest is open to anyone, and the conditions are as follows:

Similes will be judged for their clearness, dignity, and significance.

A simile may be short or long, but must be complete in itself.

Sources should not be given.

A contestant may submit as many lists as desired.

Commonplace and trite similes will be rejected.

All lists should be typewritten and mailed not later than November 1, 1921, to Grenville Kleiser, Room 606, 1269 Broadway, New York City.

### Heads the List

Centerdale, June 10, 1921.

Dear Editor:

I was reading in the June number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES the names of those who had served as librarians more than 25 years, so I thought I would send you my little record. There may be somebody who can beat it, but they have got to go some if they do. I have been librarian of Union library of Centerdale, Rhode Island, for 49 years, and think I am good for one more year, at least.

Union library was opened, July 4, 1870, and I was its first librarian but declined serving the years 1871-1872. It now contains nearly 7000v.

If you should print another list\* of Antique Librarians you can use my name if you think it worthy of mention.

Yours sincerely

FRANK C. ANGELL.

Centerdale, R. I.

### A Bid for a Song

Attention of New York library association.

An original poem is wanted for an Association song to be used at dinner on the evening of the presentation of the State scholarships for excellence in library work. A prize of a book of poems will be awarded to the one who writes the best song.

Specifications: The poem shall not exceed 24 lines or be less than 16 lines. The words must be adapted to some well known tune, the writer indicating the tune. The poem must be sent to the chairman of the sub-committee before August 1, 1921.

*Be loyal and try, even tho you do not consider yourself a poet.*

MARY C. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman,

Sub-committee on ceremonies for presenting State scholarships, New York library association, Geneseo, N. Y.

\*The editor thinks this record deserves full space of its own.

Monthly—Except August  
and September.

## Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

6 No. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

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Subscription - - - - -	\$3 a year	Current single number - - - -	35 cents
Five copies to one library - -	\$12 a year	Foreign Subscriptions - - -	\$3.50 a year

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under.

In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money orders should be sent.

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When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Contributions for current numbers of **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

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### Library Legislation in Illinois

**T**HE recent session of the Illinois legislature gave considerable attention to library matters. The results on the whole are very satisfactory. In some cases, the purpose was admirable tho the final form which the legislation assumed left something to be desired. However, a good beginning may lead to better things at another time. The following is taken from rather a full report sent in by a member of the Illinois library association who was much interested and kept close tab on proceedings thruout the entire session.

Of the bills passed and signed by the governor, the following are of interest:

Of the greatest interest is House Bill No. 225 which increases the tax rate for library purposes in cities and villages outside of Chicago from one and one-third mills to one and eight-tenths mills on the dollar and in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants from six and two-thirds tenths of a mill to eight-tenths of a mill.

The title of the Library Act is also amended so as to include the word

"villages" which has heretofore been omitted. This bill also takes the library rates out of the aggregate rates and releases the library tax from the scaling down under the Juul law.

House Bill No. 849, which amends the Juul law, makes the minimum rate for library purposes the same as those fixed in House Bill No. 225.

Senate Bill No. 242 amends the Library Act and provides for the appointment of library directors by the mayor with the consent of the commissioners, in villages under a commission form of government. This does away with the election of library directors in villages under the commission form of government.

House Bill No. 694 abolishes the Library Extension committee and provides for the consolidation of the Library Extension division, the State library and a new department known as the Archives division.

House Bill No. 530 affects the Public Library Employes pension fund of Chicago, directing that the board shall

turn over to the Public Library Employees pension fund all moneys collected as fines for the retention of books. This particular provision was formerly optional with the board.

Two bills which were lost were House Bills Nos. 462 and 463 which provided for the certification of librarians and Senate Bill No. 471 which attempted to prevent the removal of the State library to the new Centennial Memorial building.

In the period of the high cost of everything, Illinois libraries both large and small have suffered in common. The increased tax levy, while not burdensome in the aggregate—particularly where honest valuation is observed, will relieve a very uncomfortable and depressing situation in the hands of those who have tried to provide library service with inadequate means.

The removal of the library from the action of the Juul law is a good thing in itself and further, it increases the recognition of library service as an educational activity rather than official patronage.

The bill which consolidates in a measure the library interests of the state as a unit, is admirable as far as it goes. One can not help wishing, however, that it had gone further. The administration of the State library still remains in the hands of officials elected by political parties for duties altogether different from educational activity. The some half-dozen State libraries at Springfield could function more economically and more effectively under a state official appointed by a State board with a larger degree of continuity and therefore furnish more valuable service than, as the bill

provides in this instance, by a board made up of officers elected every four years. It is no invidious comparison to say that Secretary Emmerson is a better administrator now of state library affairs than he was when he took his office and when he goes out of office (as is likely to happen every four years to any incumbent of the office), he will carry with him his knowledge gained from his years of experience and a new man in the office and in the offices of the other members of the board will have to become competent thru experience. This means a loss of power in the conduct of library affairs of the state, for a period, at least. But even at that, the consolidation feature which one could wish had taken in more than it does, is a valuable step forward which can properly lead to further consolidation at a later period.

The old situation which the new bill abolishes was an inexcusable duplication which led to needless expense, friction and much loss of momentum in library service for the state.

The compulsory feature of the act relating to the Employees Pension fund of the Chicago public library is good legislation. The fault with the optional feature which was abolished comes in the same category with the library service for the state mentioned above. New boards had to learn the value of the pension fund and the reasonableness of its support.

There will be little regret over the failure of the certification bill. In the present status of library development in Illinois, certification would be a hindrance rather than a help and the library work of the state can afford to wait for a longer period for that mea-

sure than it can for some other things that need to be done at once.

The bill to prevent the removal of the State library from the capitol had nothing to recommend it and it is a matter of congratulation in library cir-

cles that such a measure was defeated.

On the whole, library legislation in Illinois this year has gone forward in what seems at this time to be a very satisfactory form and offers hope for better things in the days to come.

### The Swampscott Meeting

THE meeting of the A. L. A. for 1921 was a record breaker in several respects. It was the largest meeting in point of numbers that has been held. It was carefully planned and generally speaking, the careful plans were carried out. Accommodations for different meetings were unusually good. The hotel service was beyond reproach. The weather was propitious and the hosts of the occasion, the New England librarians, were assiduous in their attentions and have forever annulled any opinion that might have been held regarding them as being unapproachable, reserved, conventional or cool in any respect.

The ability to think clearly and promptly at the moment and the unflinching enthusiastic spirit of Miss Tyler as presiding officer won highest commendation on every side.

It might be mentioned here that it was a singular thing that few, if any, of the men librarians who came to the platform addressed the president by her title. Undoubtedly there was nothing behind the circumstance of one after another of the men who occupy positions of dignity requiring formality, in addressing the chair as "Miss Tyler" and it must be accounted for on the ground of the extreme friendliness with which these speakers regarded the gracious presiding officer.

Still the repetition of the circumstance detracted from the pleasure of the moment.

In tact, graciousness and effective procedure the presiding officer made a high record that future presidents may emulate but may not excel.

A most welcome and valuable thing was the presence at and participation in the meetings of non-librarians who are connected with the success, very largely, of the ideals of librarianship, for authors, publicists, teachers, publishers and booksellers, are important factors in the business of book production and book distribution, two very necessary elements in book service. A meeting together for a week as was the case at Swampscott, can but lead to better understanding and consequent better coöperation on the part of all concerned.

The meeting at Swampscott set a high mark for the next one to reach. In point of numbers, this can hardly be done for some time until there is another New England meeting. (May it come soon!)

If such attendance were to become customary, it would surely be necessary to rearrange plans and places of meetings else the problem of seeing and hearing persons and addresses of one's choice would be overwhelming.

### An Intolerable Situation

ONE of the burning questions which came before the Swampscott meeting was that introduced by Dr Arthur E. Bostwick of St. Louis in calling attention to the fact that a member of the staff of the New York public library had been deported by the Bureau of Immigration under the ruling that librarians are laborers in the meaning of the term as used in the law relating to contract labor.

The librarian in question, Miss Eileen Coughlin, had served as librarian for a number of years at St. John's, New Brunswick, had done valiant service over-seas and on her return to her post in Canada, had conceived the notion of coming to the United States to extend her knowledge of library methods as practiced here. Like most librarians after the war, it was necessary for her to find some means of support during the period of her study. She wrote from Canada to the New York public library stating her qualifications and experience and her desire to enter into a larger field of study and library work in the United States. On this showing, she was engaged to take charge of the periodical department of the library.

But a young woman with 10 years' experience in library work, qualified to serve her country in valuable service abroad and capable of caring for a room with 7000 different periodicals, is in the opinion of the Immigration Bureau and those who furnished the animus of their action, a laborer.

This incident, with the attending elements in it, is a disgrace shared by all who profess to be leaders in librarianship, until something more is done

than has been to remove the stigma. It is hardly conceivable that the courts would uphold such a prejudiced, not to say ignorant, attitude on the part of those concerned in it. The recital of the facts in the case does not show that any effort was made beyond "personal influence" to stay the action.

The incident and its progress reflect no credit on any one concerned in it, either for the action that was taken or that was not taken. It is to be hoped that the matter will not be allowed to rest here. It isn't a question of personal relations or personal publicity or personal inconvenience. It is a question of right and wrong and according to the facts as stated publicly at Swampscott, there is an evident duty on the part of those who by choice and power and responsibility are charged with the welfare of library service to see to it that the stigma on library service caused by the action recorded is removed promptly and effectively. Where personal prejudice is responsible for any part of the disgraceful proceeding, just desserts should be served as promptly and effectively.

As one of the investigators in commenting on it, states, "a professional actor, an artist, a lecturer, a singer, a trained nurse, a seminary professor, a domestic servant, an exhibitor or an employee of a fair or exposition, is exempt from contract labor, but an educated, ambitious, capable and valuable member of educational service is relegated to the companionship of the undesirables—paupers, idiots, incompetents and defectives."

What is the next step?



## Progress

**Y**EARS ago a writer of humorous stories under the title of "The Whitewashers Philosophy Club" finished most of his stories with the phrase, "The world do move!"

One familiar with this phrase and with the discussions in publishing circles of 20 years ago, felt like repeating it when listening to the very edifying and informative addresses given at the Saturday night meeting of the A. L. A. by men connected prominently with the book publishing activities.

Of special moment was the statement by the president of one of the best publishing concerns, who in his address on that evening said, "The fundamental task for any one interested in the writing, publishing or distribution of books in this country becomes apparent. Might not some libraries sell as well as loan books and thus increase their service to the community and their revenue from which their books and periodicals are bought and their salaries are paid?"

This, indeed, is a long step in advance of the position taken by the American Booksellers' Association at the beginning of the twentieth century. The proceedings of that association as well as those of the A. L. A. will show the acrimoni-

ous feeling engendered when a much less definite proposal was made by a prominent librarian of that day. At that time, the first exhibition of new books for holiday gifts was made in a library with such success that those exhibitions are now among the ordinary duties assumed by many libraries.

In a discussion of the project, the question similar to that of the 1921 speaker was asked, largely for the purpose of bringing on a discussion of it, and largely because of this, the Booksellers' Association as well as many publishing houses assumed an attitude of something akin to animosity towards public libraries, unwisely, as time has since proved. Some of the officers of these associations went so far as to present written protests to governing bodies against librarians promulgating any such doctrine as having books in their libraries for sale. When rental collections in libraries were first instituted, they were condemned most heartily by booksellers and some publishers.

Hence it was that when bookselling by libraries *for revenue* was advocated at Swampscott, one who remembered, repeated the slogan of "The Whitewashers Philosophy Club," "The world do move!"

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Zeal Without Knowledge

One of the regrettable things in the circle of national affairs was the dismissal of Dr Philander P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, the first of June to make way for an appointment for what seems to be personal reasons, judging from the reports in the Washington press. Dr Claxton's long and varied experience in educational endeavor leaves no phase of it in which he has not rendered distinguished service. He was appointed

by President Taft and because of his high record as an educationalist, was retained by President Wilson. His accomplishment deserves higher consideration than he has been accorded in this instance.

Dr Claxton, as Commissioner of Education, has made his department felt, not only in formal educational circles, but in the development of library spirit thruout the country. For 12 years at least, he has been presenting the advantages of county library service for

sparsely settled states and has done much to make possible the present progressive activity in county libraries thruout the United States.

It is very regrettable that this department should have been made one of the first to suffer from a change on what seems to be, at this distance, purely personal grounds. There was no criticism to be made of Commissioner Claxton's work. The appointing power loved him not less but the other man more, but why, at this time and distance, is not yet apparent.

Professor J. J. Tigert, professor of psychology in the University of Kentucky, was appointed Dr Claxton's successor. His experience has been confined previously to the Central college of Missouri, the Kentucky Wesleyan college and with Y. M. C. A. service overseas.

The President's activities in educational lines thus far, that is, his interference with the Towner-Sterling bill and this later move, do not commend his attitude towards educational endeavor to those who have the good of the service at heart.

### May W. Seymour

May W. Seymour, who for more than 20 years has made various valuable contributions to library science and economy, died at Lake Placid Club, June 14, 1921.

To many, the notice of the death of Miss Seymour will mean nothing, but there are few people engaged in library service who, in a lesser or greater degree, are not indebted to Miss Seymour for much in library science and economy which makes possible some of the best of their work.

Miss Seymour was among the early graduates of the New York State library school. She had a mind that found its greatest enjoyment in the pursuit of knowledge. It was to be expected, therefore, that the intricacies of library methods that needed simplification and explanation should attract her attention.

Miss Seymour was of a very retiring disposition, with considerable reserve

but with a mind as keen as blue steel and with an adherence to what she considered duty that in another day would have classed her among the martyrs. A perfect disregard of public opinion added to a strict self-accountability left her often misunderstood by those who had little or no occasion to come in close contact with her, but gentle but strong, self-reliant but also dependent, with a sense of loyalty, she gave of her best years to the friends she made in her first library experiences and her attachment lasted to the end.

The decimal classification, in all its ramifications and particularly in its development in recent years, received her greatest devotion and it has been largely due to the faithful work which she bestowed upon it that much of its excellence has been developed. To one who knew of the relation, the question of what will now become of the decimal classification rises involuntarily in hearing of her death.

Her circle of friends was not large but those who were permitted within its line were devoted to her and will feel an irreparable loss in her going.

### The Nation's Need\*

If we are to maintain our place among the educated nations of the world we must provide for the education of adults as well as children. No man is educated if he stops studying when he leaves school.

University extension courses, correspondence schools and the various reading courses offered are reaching thousands, but are leaving millions untouched. Books and libraries are the simplest and best agencies for universal education. When adequately administered, the free public library offers the means of education to every individual, literally from the time that individual first begins to look at pictures until his days are ended.

County libraries were not by any means unheard of, nor untried, but the

\*Summary of talk by Carl H. Milam, secretary of the A. L. A., given at the meeting of the N. E. A. at Des Moines.

county library movement, as we now know it, really started with the California legislation of 1911. That legislation, the rapid development of California county libraries under the new plan, and the significance of the idea were soon apparent. Librarians and others interested in libraries were enabled to visualize a library service which would be available to every man, woman and child in America.

Apparently we have found in the county library system a scheme which is feasible in most of the states. It can be operated at a small cost per capita. The size of the unit and of the organization makes possible an adequate professional staff and a large central collection from which books may be drawn by anybody. Branch libraries in the small towns are kept up-to-date with fresh, new material from the central supply. Deposit collections, frequent exchanges, parcel post deliveries, book wagons and the telephone are all used to bring books to the folks who want them, to make the service easily available to everybody in the country.

Those who believe in education should work for the establishment and development of libraries which will be available to every one of the 105 million people in the United States, whether they live in towns or in the country. And they should work for the maintenance of those free agencies of universal education on a more adequate basis than has been realized anywhere up to this time.

The county library is the best agency yet devised for bringing educational advantages within the reach of the 60,000,000 Americans who are now practically beyond the influence of books.

#### Hearst Publications

The following magazines are published by Hearst:

*Cosmopolitan Magazine; Good House-keeping; Hearst's Magazine; Harper's Bazaar; Motor Magazine; Motor Boat Magazine.* There are also about ten newspapers.—*Ontario Library Review.*

#### A New Kind of Commencement

Inasmuch as it is approaching commencement time and the library has been called the "university of the people," it would seem a fitting time to have a commencement program and award some diplomas. It would be great fun—choosing the class. I hope I am asked to help in the selection. Of course it's generally understood among our student body and alumni that nobody ever is graduated forever from the library. Our commencements would mean simply that our students had arrived at a little higher stage of development than before. Very few of us ever drop out altogether.

The entrance requirements are very reasonable. If you are a citizen of Indianapolis you may become a student at once. Tuition fees are never even mentioned. All courses are elective—none prescribed. There are no cliques nor fraternities—no meddlesome social rules. You can dance as often as you like and nobody bothers his head about you. Nobody asks your religion or your politics. Here are professors from all parts of the world—even of all times.

And now for the graduates themselves. I have frequently felt in college commencements that it wasn't always the real graduate who was handed the sheepskin. This came to me first at my own commencement. As the speaker, a very great man, I am told, spoke of the four years of struggle we had passed thru in earning our degrees, I felt amused. As I looked about at the smooth, untroubled faces of my fellow graduates, I couldn't seem to remember anything but serenades, much going and coming, a few classes and lessons, exquisite parties, new dresses from home, spreads, laughter and only occasional tears. Why, after all, did we wear the cap and gown and why were we to be praised? Then my eye fell upon the bronzed faces and calloused hands of some parents who had come to see their children graduated. There was the struggle, the sacrifice—the victory! Thru a queer mist I seemed to see the caps and gowns taken off of us and put on

the parents, with glory shining from their countenances. They were the true graduates.

Now at this library commencement only the real graduates are going to get diplomas. One of them will be a seamstress who is studying the history of embroidery from the days before Christendom until now—her degree to be Bachelor of Beautiful Stitches. Another who has quit the ministry reads Emerson and poetry. On him let us confer D. F. T.—Doctor of Fine Thoughts. Another will be an old man who is making a study of precious stones—his will be Bachelor of Jewels. Still another says she gets more understanding of life out of novels than out of treatises about life. For this wide acquaintance with the best fiction she shall have the degree of the Bachelor of the Novel. There will be the Bachelor of the Bird Languages, a Doctor of Black Magic, a Master of Current Magazines, and a Doctor of Entertaining Children. Oh, it will be a goodly company. Who, do you think, should give the commencement address to such a heterogeneous crowd? Perhaps there is only one mind that could please them—that of the little child.

Yes, surely, we shall have, in spirit at least, a library commencement each year. We all should belong to this university of advanced courses. We used to feel when arithmetic problems tangled themselves in hard knots and our answers would not tally with the answers in the back of the book, that life certainly would be worth living if ever we could get out of school. Later we learned that we go to school all the days of our life, and that when the problems of square root and fractions ceased, there would still be those of misunderstanding hearts, how to vote, what to wear, whom to marry, when to stay single and where to earn a living. There are many answer-books at the library. Indeed it is my belief that somewhere, somehow, on library shelves are to be found books that help to solve every human problem. The quest for these is a joyous one.

M. D. L.

### Standardizing Sizes in Magazine Binding

A committee on binding of the Massachusetts library club has been working for more than a year on a scheme for standardizing magazine binding. After careful and detailed study and experiment of prevailing library usage in 34 libraries and consulting with book buyers and others, the committee has determined on certain principles which will be practical for binding and which may be adopted by libraries generally.

This plan will mean the elimination of all specifications in ordering bindings in the standardized list. It will mean for the binder the elimination of thousands of rubbings and will permit him to carry out certain operations in quantity instead of by single volumes. The result will be uniformity, economy of operation and best of all, reduced cost.

The standard specifications in the form of patterns will be supplied to all binders desiring them. They determine the following features: Height of the volume, proportional division of back, position, form and wording of the inscriptions on the volume.

In addition to the group patterns, a slide rule has been devised as a binder's tool. By its use, the finisher can ascertain with accuracy from the height of the boards of any volume, the group to which it belongs and the location of any given line of lettering on the back.

There are 846 periodicals concurrently bound by enough libraries to entitle them to inclusion in the standardized list. Most of them are indexed in the *Reader's Guide*.

The magazines are divided into groups according to the heights at which the boards have to be cut and the unit of gradation between the groups is one quarter of an inch. The list of groups follows. A library regularly binding any magazine not included in this list may have it added to its proper group by special order to the binder:

- 8-inch group  
*Poetry*  
 8½-inch group  
*Unpartizan Review*  
 9-inch group  
*Booklist*  
*Edinburgh Review*  
 9¼-inch group  
*Bird Lore*  
*Blackwood's Magazine*  
*Educational Review*  
*Living Age*  
*Quarterly Journal of Economics*  
 9½-inch group  
*American Cookery*  
*Annals*  
*Atlantic Monthly*  
*Bookman*  
*Catholic World*  
*Century*  
*Education*  
*Forum*  
*Hibbert Journal*  
*Overland Monthly*  
*Review of Reviews*  
*School Arts Magazine*  
*School Review*  
 9¾-inch group  
*American City*  
*American Magazine*  
*of Art*  
*Bulletin of the Pan-American Union*  
*Current History*  
*Current Opinion*  
*Dial*  
*Harper's Magazine*  
*Little Folks*  
*Mayflower Descendant*  
*Munsey's Magazine*  
*National Municipal Review*  
*New England Historical and Genealogical Register*  
*North American Review*  
*Poet-lore*  
*Popular Mechanics*  
*Public Libraries*  
*St. Nicholas*  
*Scientific Monthly*  
*Scribner's*  
*Yale Review*  
 10-inch group  
*Architectural Record*  
*Book Review Digest*  
*Contemporary Review*  
*Fortnightly Review*  
*National Geographic Magazine*  
*Nineteenth Century*  
 10¼-inch group  
*World's Work*  
 10½-inch group  
*American Historical Review*  
*Photo-Era*  
 10¾-inch group  
*Library Journal*  
*Official Gazette*  
 11¼-inch group  
*Punch*  
 11½-inch group  
*Cosmopolitan*  
*Everybody's Magazine*  
*Good Housekeeping*  
*International Studio*  
 11¾-inch group  
*American Forestry*  
*American Magazine*  
*Asia*  
*Independent*  
*Outing*  
*Outlook*  
*Scientific American Monthly*  
 12-inch group  
*American Architect*  
*Electrical World*  
*Industrial Management*  
*Literary Digest*  
*Nation*  
*Review*  
*Survey*  
 12¼-inch group  
*New Republic*  
 12½-inch group  
*Garden Magazine*  
*House and Garden*  
*House Beautiful*  
 12¾-inch group  
*Musician*  
 13¼-inch group  
*Etude*  
 14-inch group  
*Collier's Weekly*  
*Scientific American*  
 14¾-inch group  
*Country Life*  
 16-inch group  
*Illustrated London News*  
*Ladies' Home Journal*  
 16¼-inch group  
*Youths' Companion*

HAROLD T. DOUGHERTY,  
 HERBERT W. FISON,  
 EDITH GUERRIER,  
 GEORGE H. EVANS,  
 Chairman.

### Examples of Changed Titles\*

- Bond, Mrs. Aimée.** My airman over there, by his wife. N.Y. Moffat, Yard & co. 1918. Same book published under title, An Airman's wife. Lond. Jenkins, 1918.
- Cole, George Douglas Howard.** Guild socialism re-stated. Lond. Parsons, 1920. Same book pub. under title Guild socialism, a plan for economic democracy. N.Y. Stokes, c1920.
- Holt, Henry.** On the cosmic relations. 1914. Second edition pub. 1919, under title Cosmic relations and immortality.
- Isvolsky, Alexander Petrovich.** Memoirs of Alexander Isvolsky. Lond. Hutchinson, pref. 1920. Same book pub. under title Recollections of a foreign minister. N.Y. Doubleday, 1921.
- Jones, Edward David.** Industrial leadership and executive ability. Formerly Business administrator; lessons to be drawn from the history of war, science and statecraft. 1920c13-20.
- Joyce, Patrick Weston.** Illustrated history of Ireland. 1920. A new edition of the book formerly entitled A Child's history of Ireland, with additional chapters and a new index.
- MacEachen, Roderick Aloysius.** Religion, first manual. 1921. Pub. 1919 under title Catechist's manual, first elementary course.
- McFee, William.** Letters from an ocean tramp. Lond. Cassell, 1908. Another edition pub. under title An Ocean tramp. N.Y. Doubleday, 1921.
- Putnam, George Palmer, 1814-72, comp.** Handbook of universal history . . . continued to date under the editorial supervision of G. H. Putnam. c1890-1919. Issued also under title Tabular views of universal history.
- Pieshkov, Aleksei Maksimovich, (Maxim Gorky, pseud.)** Submerged. Same book translated under titles: In the depths, A Lodging for a night, The Lower depths, A Night refuge and Night's lodging.
- Stevenson, Burton Egbert.** Girl from Alsace; a romance of the great war. Originally pub. under the title of Little comrade. 1915.
- Urban, John W.** My experiences mid shot and shell and in rebel den. Other editions pub. under titles: Battle field and prison pen; In defense of the Union; Through the war and thrice a prisoner in rebel dungeons.

\*Furnished by the cataloging department of the Brooklyn public library.



**Public Library, Roanoke, Va.**

The Roanoke public library was opened with appropriate exercises on the afternoon of Saturday, May 21. Dr George F. Bowerman, of Washington, and Dr H. R. McIlwaine, librarian of the State library of Virginia, were the speakers of the occasion. The library is located in a small park near the business center of the city. The exercises were held out-of-doors and at their close the building was thrown open for inspection.

Roanoke is one of the first of the

has but recently agitated the matter of an increase in the limit of the permissive tax to be levied for the support of libraries to a rate equal to that provided in the Virginia law. The chief difference between the two laws lies in the fact that New Jersey's law contains a mandatory clause which sets a minimum as well as a maximum to the tax which can be levied for library support.

In addition to the tax fund for the maintenance of the library, which for the current year amounts to \$15,000, the



larger cities of Virginia to take advantage of the excellent state law which authorizes communities to put the question of the establishment of a public library to a vote of the people and to levy a tax up to one mill on the dollar of the assessed valuation of property. In view of the present state of the development of public libraries in Virginia, it is interesting to note that New Jersey, which has always prided itself upon having one of the best library laws in the country,

City Council made special appropriations for the remodeling and equipment of a large residence in Elmwood Park for library purposes. The transformation of this residence into a library was most successfully done and, as a result, the city now has a roomy and attractive building, admirably adapted in every respect to the use to which it has been put and more homelike and inviting than some more pretentious building might prove to be.

The Council also sanctioned a campaign for a book fund. This drive was held a year ago at a time when the community had had patriotic drives without number, but in spite of this fact, the sum of \$23,000 was raised by popular subscription.

Roanoke has perhaps a unique distinction in having as the president of its Board of Trustees, a library school graduate and an experienced librarian. To Mrs W. W. S. Butler, Jr., a graduate of the Pratt Institute library school, is due in large measure the establishment of a library in Roanoke, the success of the library campaign and the adoption of the highest possible standards for the conduct of the library itself.

The New York library association committee on standardization and certification stated in its report that "one of the serious difficulties lies in the indifference of library trustees, not only in the matter of salaries but in the whole problem of securing modern standards of efficient service." The Roanoke board is therefore fortunate in having as its presiding officer a person who will not be satisfied with less than the best for her own city and who, as a first step, has secured the appointment of a group of men and women whose public spirit and belief in the library is second only to her own.

Early in January, the Library Board engaged Miss Emma V. Baldwin, formerly of the Brooklyn public library, for a period of six months to organize the library and has since that time requested her to extend her services until the first of January.

The Board has also voted to place the positions of library assistants upon a par with those of teachers in the public schools of Roanoke and has adopted similar qualifications for admission to the various grades of library service—an important step in securing from the outset a definite standardization of the library's service. Two assistants of the grade of high-school teachers and one of the grade of an elementary school teacher have been engaged in addition to

such clerical help as has been needed. The library, therefore, small as it must of necessity be at the outset, starts upon its work with a staff of four trained and experienced librarians. In addition to the organizer, Miss Pearl Hinesley of the New York State library school has been engaged as reference librarian, Miss Mary E. Rossell of the New York Public Library school as children's librarian, and Miss Louise S. Harris of Pratt Institute library school as assistant.

It is unusual in these days of library development to find a city as large and as progressive as Roanoke without a public library of any sort, and the gratification of the people at the decision to open a library in their midst has been widespread. Many of the present residents of Roanoke have been library borrowers in other cities and the constant reference to their sense of loss in their failure to find a public library in their new home has been an eloquent testimony to the effective service which the libraries of this country are rendering to their communities.

### The John Crerar Library

#### Dedication of new library building

The dedicatory exercises of the new John Crerar library building, Michigan avenue and Randolph street, Chicago, Illinois, were held on Saturday afternoon, May 28.

Owing to the restricted auditorium facilities, the invitations to be present were limited to representatives of the various libraries, learned societies and such organizations whose work in any way would be related to that of the library. For this reason, the crowd was not a great one but it was select and the room was comfortably filled.

Owing to the enforced absence of Mr Marvin Hughitt, president of the Board of Trustees, Mr T. A. Jones, first vice-president, occupied the chair.

After the invocation, Reverend Josiah Sibley, D. D., read extracts from the will of the founder of the library, John Crerar. The phraseology of the will shows Mr Crerar to have been a man of

fine feeling in relation to the things of the spirit as well as a successful business man. As Mr Crerar died without heirs, much of his large fortune was distributed among a number of benevolences and charitable institutions of Chicago, but leaving the bulk of it as an endowment for a public library to be located and built up in accordance with certain directions but largely according to the wisdom of the Board of Trustees whom he named and who should have the power to appoint their own successors.

Dr Sibley paid a tribute to the generosity of Mr Crerar. He stated the opinion that a city's progress and the character of its citizenship is marked more clearly by the provisions made for spiritual and intellectual development than by colossal fortunes and businesses. The progress and intellectual development of a city is possible only where there is great wealth. He referred to Athens and its development in art made possible by the wealth of its citizens. He called attention to the fact that the wealthy men of Chicago have not been unmindful, for the most part, of the intellectual and spiritual needs of their city, pointing out the numerous proofs of this in the provisions for art, science, health, religious and intellectual needs which have been provided for by bequests from Chicago's wealthy deceased.

Dr Shailer Mathews, dean of the Divinity school of the University of Chicago, gave the principal address, taking for his topic, Building a monument of books. Dr Mathews reviewed at length the great progress of human endeavor which has been made possible by legacies. He spoke of the monuments which the world has built and the different kinds of legacies. In his judgment, a living monument such as a library stands supreme. It is made not of material, really, but of life for the human soul. There is no end to such a monument as it touches and enriches other lives year after year to time immemorial.

Dr Mathews dwelt especially on the fact that such a library as the John

Crerar was a special legacy in that its material could in no wise lend itself to the deterioration of the human soul, something that is not true of all libraries.

An historical sketch of the library was given by Dr C. W. Andrews under whose fostering care the John Crerar has reached its present extent and wonderful service. He called attention to the fact that it was not a circulating library, that it had not been built up regardless of the other libraries in the community—on the contrary, they had tried to supply in those subjects where the other libraries were weak. The scope of the library was decided after consultation among those charged with the development of the three large libraries of Chicago and the John Crerar finally decided to take the field of science for its own, to build up especially scientific bibliography. From this, the subjects of theology and law were omitted owing to the fact that the subjects were well cared for in other institutions of learning in Chicago.

Dr Andrews reviewed at length the steps in the plans and final construction of the building. He described the quarters as they have been assigned and pointed out the future developments provided for. It was a matter of professional pride that in addition, Dr Andrews gave a much merited compliment to the service and fidelity of the staff of the John Crerar library.

The last step in the exercises was the transfer of the keys of the library by Robert Forsyth, Esq., chairman of the committee on buildings and grounds, who presented the keys to Mr Jones who accepted them for the Board of Trustees and thereupon pronounced the dedication of the building complete.

At the end of the exercises, the guests were led on a tour of inspection thru the library by members of the staff who explained arrangements proposed, collections, etc.

The present building gives only half as much space as it is planned shall be provided for when the building is completed. Provision has been made

for the extension when necessary on the north and west sides of the building.

The library occupies the upper ten stories of the building with quick elevator and telephone service connecting departments. The second, third and



The new building of The John Crerar Library

fourth floors will be devoted to offices and the street floor to high-class merchandising.

### Library Laws of Bulgaria

The Secretary of State transmitted to the librarian of Congress a copy of the library laws which he had received from the Bulgarian government in relation to establishing national libraries in Bulgaria which is of more than passing interest to American libraries since some of the things which are provided for in the law are in advance of the American situation.<sup>1</sup>

The law is made up of 15 rather long articles, the substance of which might be stated somewhat as follows:

Accessible national libraries under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Instruction are to be established in the center villages and towns of the kingdom. These libraries are to contain several copies of each of the more important Bulgarian literary productions, as well as those foreign productions which are necessary for the cultural and economic

necessities of the local population. These libraries are to have two sections, a) for youth, b) for grown persons.

The regions of these libraries are to be fixed by the district school council and changed by it when necessary. The means for the subsistence of these libraries is provided by village budgets in conformity with the law for public instruction. The education and salary of the librarians must correspond to those in the Sofia National library. Of two candidates, preference is to be given to the one who has done something in the literary field or who has served at least two years in some state or communal library.

In every accessible national library, *under the presidency of the librarian*,\* there must be a library committee which is appointed by the presidents of all communal, cultural, economic and *sport*\* organizations of the center village. The mandate of this committee lasts only three years. This committee is responsible for the service rendered to the population and for the accurate expenditure of the library funds.

The list of books selected to be purchased must be approved by the Ministry of public instruction. It has the right to veto only those which are injurious to the moral character of the community. It also has the right to destroy the whole list if the books are literature which would interest only a part of the population or only one political group.

The service of the committee is honorary and without pay. When its members are absent from meetings without very good reason, they are fined 10 leva for each unattended meeting. The fine is fixed without the right of appeal, by the president of the district school council upon presentation of the member's name by the librarian and is collected without delay by the local authorities. Such sums go to the budget for supply of books.

If the presidents of the organizations mentioned cannot agree on persons for the library committee or if the persons

\*The italics are P. L.'s.

who have been appointed decline to accept, then the Ministry of public instruction has the authority to appoint three of the presidents of the aforementioned societies in the first place, or to appoint those who have declined to accept in the second place, if it finds that their refusal to accept the position is groundless.

The use of the accessible national libraries is free of charge to all inhabitants of the library region. The management and service of these libraries are inspected each year by experts designated by the Ministry of public instruction.

*The library correspondence is subject to no postage.*

### A Publicity Competition

In order to reduce to an "outward and visible" form the service of a public library to the community, the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh recently instituted an exhibit competition.

All departments and branches were asked to compete in the production of bulletins or displays to cover those phases of library work which best lend themselves to presentation in concrete form: reference work, technology work, lending work, children's work, work with schools, community work including clubs and Americanization work. The competition was highly informal and spontaneous in its nature, only three weeks time being allowed between the beginning and the "due" day.

A \$10 prize offered lent zest to the occasion, this prize to be awarded on the rather broad bases of comprehensiveness and effectiveness. Three "outsiders" served as judges, thus looking upon the work of all departments with an unbiased eye; whether in spite or because of their guaranteed impartiality, they were somewhat put to it to make one choice, so good was the work of several departments. But repeated viewings finally made it clear that Central Lending's product was to the fore in scope and clearness of presentation, so to them went the gold-piece.

The displays presented range from

bulletins and posters to booklets and outline-form plans, but all are developed past the unproven suggestion point to that of definite plans whose feasibility may be tested. Those which can be shipped will be on display at the A. L. A. convention at Swampscott. They are forwarded not as finished pieces of work but only as a few suggestions for one means of helping to bring before the city's public just what its library does.

June 8, 1921.

J. H. L.

### A Refutation

An accusation having entered the public press that the International Labor Office was a laboratory for the manufacture of a particular brand of socialist doctrines and that it had entered into direct relations with workers' organizations instead of keeping its activities within the limits which would be imposed upon them were they to confine their relations to government departments only, a commission of experts was appointed by the Council of the League of Nations in accordance with a resolution adopted by the assembly of the League, December 17, 1920, to make an investigation.

The commission, which consists of Robert A. Johnson of the British Treasury, M. Noblemaire, member of the French Chamber of Deputies, Count Avet, Councillor of State of Italy, M. Figueras, chairman of the Bank of Bilbao, Spain, and M. Villanueva, Nicaraguan minister at Paris, has recently completed its investigations of the International Labor Office and submitted its report to Sir Eric Drummond, secretary-general of the League. This report, which was adopted unanimously, comments enthusiastically upon the work already accomplished by this organization and states that the accusation "may be dismissed as without foundation."

The complete report as presented to the secretary-general of the League may be obtained from the American correspondent, Ernest Greenwood, International Labor Office, 618 Seventeenth street, Washington, D. C.

*Handwritten note:*  
There is a 2



**American Library Association**

**A review of proceedings of the forty-third annual meeting, June, 1921**

**General sessions—Monday evening**

There was an expectant audience in the assembly hall of New Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass., on the opening evening. A. L. A., had been in a period of stress and strain for two years which had given much work and anxiety to those charged with responsibility and while matters had been readjusted in that time, everyone was on tiptoe of expectancy to see the results. The appearance of a woman president at an annual meeting for only the second time in 45 years was an event! The program was promising of interest and helpfulness and the place was ideal!

A number of delegates who had not noted the difference in time were late in reaching the meeting.

With a few gracious words, the president, Miss Alice S. Tyler, opened the meeting and introduced the successive speakers in a most graceful and pleasing fashion.

Dr George E. Woodberry, in welcoming the librarians, declared them trustees of knowledge and the guardians of literature. In his opinion, the public library is just as important in the life of a democracy as the church, the school and the town meeting. He referred with praise to the New England *litterateurs* and pointed out adjoining localities as the scenes of American literature and history.

In giving a greeting to the association, Dr Sarah Louise Arnold, for a number of years dean of Simmons college, a position which she has recently laid down to accept another, gave a half humorous but wholly serious address on education and in this, she gave unstinted praise to real library service.

Dr Arnold said that it is a mistake to confuse schooling and education. Schooling gives but a small part of education. Every new mind finds a problem as if it never was known be-

fore but education thru books gives the record of the strivings of the knowing heart. No longer does education proceed from the tongue to the ear but books carry it to the ends of the earth.

If the public is interested in the movements of the world and in performing its part in these movements, it must have actual information and accurate knowledge. It provides libraries to furnish these necessities. Under these circumstances, provision must be made for the training of librarians whose business it will be to collect, record, organize and distribute the information which the world needs.

The service rendered by the librarians in the matter of organizing records and material during the war deserves the highest commendation. While praise is being bestowed on thousands who performed brave deeds, the inestimable service of the decimal classification and card catalogs for places and people in the days of the war stands unparalleled in value in the records of that great struggle.

Library service has come to stay. It will grow in value according to the spirit of those engaged in it. Unfailing service, absolute accuracy, a generous spirit and breadth of understanding make human beings ready for the book.

In the ancient days, men wrought in material, producing the beautiful books of the monasteries in the old collections. These books bore the legend, "Done for the glory of God." In the present day, the modern librarian works for the good of men which is the ultimate glory of God.

The main address of the first evening was given by Prof Dallas Lore Sharp of Boston university on the Prophet and the poet. Prof Sharp spoke without notes and his address kept the attention of the audience from the beginning to the close. It would be impossible to reproduce anything giving an accurate or even a near-picture of the flow of hyperbolic anecdotes, sharp truths, delightful reasoning and above all, the keen sense of

the need of personal attention to the business of living on the part of every one, which was brought out in Prof Sharp's address.

Dr Sharp took for his theme a recent declaration of President Butler of Columbia university that, notwithstanding the country's 100,000,000 people, there had not been brought out a single great poet, a single great religious leader, nor a single great philosopher. Dr Sharp placed the blame for the absence of the great poet, religious leader and philosopher, if such a lack really exists, on the method of education in American schools. He asserted that the only real foreign tongue in the schools was English, to which language less than three hours a week is sometimes given, while at the same time as much as 15 hours is given to the study of foreign languages.

The conventional is starving out the emotions of the people and the glitter of the "near" culture is more attractive in the schools than the solid foundations of philosophy and truth. Nature, however, is just as full as ever of real possibilities and the magical human chance accredited as the opening for genius is still here.

Dr Sharp stated that despite the handicap of requirements, it has been possible to produce in America men whose thoughts and deeds have stirred the world, reciting as an example, Abraham Lincoln.

He spoke of the unpromising material that was presented in the youth of a number of men who afterwards became famous when they "escaped" from the environment that held them from their own. He referred to the lack of honesty of purpose in the educational work undertaken by too many would-be teachers of the present days.

The American schools today do not provide for poets; they provide for captains of industry. American youth is not unpoetical, but educational programs emphasize utility. The schools themselves applaud the careers of the students who accumulate money, not those who speak the truth.

### Second general session—Tuesday morning

The second session on Tuesday morning opened with the president's address, "Some aspects of library progress." The substance of this will be found on page 363.

After this, a very pleasant hour was spent in expressions of cordial greetings from the presidents of affiliated organizations. Edward H. Redstone, state librarian of Massachusetts, spoke for the national organization of that class of librarians, William R. Watson of the New York State library for the League of library commissions and Frederick C. Hicks, law librarian of Columbia university, spoke for the American association of law libraries.

Mr Hicks said in part:

The object of the American association of law libraries is to "develop and increase the usefulness and efficiency of law libraries." Any person officially connected with a law library, state library, or with a general library having a separately maintained law section, may become a regular member. Other persons may become associate members.

The association is now holding its sixteenth annual meeting. It publishes an *Index to Legal Periodicals* and a *Law Library Journal*, which are in their fourteenth volumes. The *Index* is the only key to the contents of legal periodicals published anywhere in the world today. The *Law Library Journal* is the only periodical devoted exclusively to law library economy and legal bibliography.

The association has never been affiliated with any other organization than the American Library Association. Its members think of themselves first as librarians and second as law librarians. They are separately organized and hold separate meetings only because of the necessity for concentration of effort on a special kind of library work. They have thus developed an *esprit de corps* which could not have been created if their organization had no separate identity. Without any special effort, their program continually enlarges before them. They strive for results.

The American association of law libraries will continue its work and will coöperate with the A. L. A. What can the A. L. A. do for us? At this time, I mention only one thing. Let the section on Professional training and the committees on library training and on recruiting for library service, include in the scope of their work, training and recruiting for law library service. Help us to impress upon the library schools, the need of offering courses leading to law library work. There is a field here which is virtually untouched. There is a need which if stimulated by a show of sympathetic interest will develop into a demand. Let us not insist that in so important a matter as education for librarianship, supply shall be governed only by economic demand.

The business scheduled for this session received scant attention owing both to an over-crowded program and a lack of interest in business matters by those present. The discussion of the constitution and its by-laws was of the usual variety.

Dr C. C. Williamson was called in to discuss his printed report.

The report of the Certification committee on national certification for librarians was put in print so that the full time could be given to the discussion of it at the Swampscott meeting. The process was disappointing as but a handful of people had read the report. Dr Williamson was much disappointed because it was not possible for him to remain at the meeting and the questions which he had expected the presentation of his report to bring forth were absent.

The report of the committee of 1920 recommending the establishment of a National Board of Certification for libraries was adopted at the Colorado Springs conference and that formed the basis of the study of the 1921 committee.

The reports on Recruiting and library coöperation were also in print and the reading of them was passed.

An interesting phase of the general sessions this year was the appearance on the platform of a number of speak-

ers who were delegates from affiliated state and local organizations of librarians. The reports which they made of the conditions in their local library fields contained a note of interest that was as suggestive of what was not as it was of what they presented.

#### **Third general session—Wednesday night**

Libraries and the nation was the title given to an address by the Honorable H. M. Towner, member of Congress from Iowa, who was the speaker of the evening on June 2. (See page 374).

#### **Fourth general session—Friday**

The meeting on Friday morning was a joint session between the A. L. A. and the Special Libraries association. The subject for the morning was Coöperation between public and special libraries.

In his introductory remarks, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., said:

Salesmanship means absolute confidence in the thing men have to sell and so the term "to sell" is used to express one's ability to transmit one's faith in a proposition to another. Libraries ought to adopt this idea even if they feel compelled to clothe it in different language.

There is a deep conviction that libraries are to be retained as public utilities and will be used by the workers.

There is a vast difference between the composition and service in various libraries. Some have books but insufficient technical workers to make their contents available. Others have workers but no books.

Hoover says facts are needed. A library cannot make an employer wise. It can only give information—not while the inquirer waits, but at once.

Mr C. F. D. Belden, librarian of the Boston public library, was the first speaker on the program. With the true art of a public speaker, Mr Belden put his audience in good humor by the story of the one who, seeing the announcement of a list of books on Keats, asked the question, "What are Keats?"

Mr Belden compared a special library to a professor's personal library which he uses for his own convenience and satisfaction but who also uses the college library for his general information.

Library assistants are not usually versed in the tools of a specialized business. The reason for a business library is that men of education are today experts in the business they represent and are coming to depend more and more on recorded information and facts which they wish to have close at hand for their own special convenience.

A public library may be compared to a department store where all departments are good but none are perfect. No department in it is complete. A special library is like a small shop devoted to a special interest. The general public likes the big store. The particular man will visit the small shop and pay more for the very special things.

The material of the public library depends on the budget prepared by officials not particularly interested in the work of the library. The business library gets what it wants because it is for the special use of those who make the budget. It would be the part of wisdom for both institutions to come into closer relations to see what can be done to support each other. The least desirable course would be to assume a critical attitude one toward the other. These two types of libraries can not coalesce but they can draw closer together. In one, the appeal is to a cautious mind, not to an enthusiastic one. In the other, enthusiasm and belief are ruling factors. The work of the public library, especially, is to bring idealism back to everyday life and every legitimate effort possible is called for in this effort.

Miss June R. Donnelly, director of the Simmons College library school, was the next speaker. She began by quoting Dr Finley who said "Education enables one to conquer his environment." A good librarian conquers his surroundings.

A school produces not specialists but just librarians. The power which this education gives enables one to adapt himself to conditions that already exist or to adapt the environment to the needs of the occasion. The great conqueror is the engineer who knows when to go around and when to blast out in laying out a system and what system of transportation will best accomplish the ends in view. Wild paths are beautiful but that kind may not be useful. The staff of a library may be compared to the engineer who is able to conquer the situation.

What do we expect from a conqueror? Qualities, from robust health to an angelic disposition. Native ability and a number-one brain is as necessary in library work as anywhere. There is a mistaken notion as to the equipment necessary in special library as well as in general library work. Not just anybody can give library service. Much of it calls for a specialist and all of it calls for responsibility.

Miss Donnelly thought the term private library preferable to special library because public libraries open to everybody have special collections.

Natural ability and accurate skill are necessary elements. It is not so much what one knows but what he can learn from experience and the ability to think straight thru his problem—this added to his ability to keep growing. These natural traits are invaluable but they are the better for training which gives a knowledge of the rules and tools. Traveling began in ancient times but the growth of the process is measured by the distance between a burro and a Royce.

This question grows out of training for any kind of library work—What should we give to our students and what do we give?

People should be chosen from the best, for all special work calls for the high degree of ability that will enable one to distinguish between tools and results. The object in mind is to secure as good material as possible and to give the ordinary methods of library service to be worked out afterwards according to necessity.

Miss Donnelly gave a very informing and interesting outline of the courses at Simmons. She closed with the statement that "Service" is the slogan in library work and belongs to all forms of the craft.

#### **Fifth general session—Saturday morning**

The meeting opened with an hour session devoted to the usual amenities (?) attending the revision of a constitution.

Mr J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., of Boston, was introduced to the meeting by President Tyler and gave a most interesting talk on two of Boston's most interesting churches, King's Chapel on Tremont street and Trinity Church on Copely Square. He treated them historically and architecturally, much to the pleasure and information of his audience.

This address was followed by a joint session between the League of Library Commissions and the American Library Association. Here again was an example of the gracious bearing of the president of the A. L. A. in inviting to the chair the president of the League. Mr William R. Watson.

In an inspiring address on

#### **The rural library and rural life**

Dr Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the Massachusetts Agricultural college, said:

"I wish first of all to congratulate the American Library Association for its splendid work with the American soldiers overseas."

The principle involved in library extension is that a democracy must be kept at school—always studying, always learning. Otherwise we handicap democratic effectiveness at its source.

Of course, education comes in many ways—from experience, from organization, from the public press. But books are indispensable. They are needed in the adequate study by farmers of the business of agriculture, of the problems of the day and for general reading.

Now the library's function as I see

it is to persuade people to read, to study and to think—to read the books that are really worth while, to study the authorities and to think for themselves. I wouldn't omit by any means the whole realm of reading for relaxation and enjoyment.

The library, therefore, to fulfill its function must give service in every community in the land, either thru local libraries as in Massachusetts, or through county libraries as in some other states, or by means of some combination of plans. The rural library should tie up intimately with the agricultural extension service, with the Grange and other farmers' organizations because these are the groups that are most likely to encourage solid reading. There is much discussion of the rural library as a community center. I would not prevent the library from rendering any worthy service to its constituents but do believe that essentially it is a part of the educational establishment rather than of the recreational.

To succeed fully with country people, the library must be aggressive. It must push itself out. It must make its service attractive and must win adherence and users.

Dr A. E. Bostwick said in part, in discussing

#### **The city's leadership in book distribution**

Leadership in a thing implies not only that it has been done first, but that it is of a kind that others should and would imitate. The city has carried out and perfected methods of the distribution of books thru public libraries earlier and more thoroly than the rural districts, because of the grouping together there of larger bodies of citizens with consequent accumulation of wealth and interest in education and the arts. Recent progress in various directions has, however, made it possible for the city and the country to inter-penetrate to some extent, giving the country some of the advantages of the city and enabling the city to spread itself out into the country. The result has been a broaden-



ing of the line of demarcation and the adoption by country districts of many of the things that have been regarded as making the city citified. It is probable that in the future the distinction between city library distribution and rural library distribution will be further lessened, owing to these facts.

Miss Julia A. Robinson of the Iowa library commission, in discussing State-wide library service, said in part:

#### State-wide library service

The influences which have led to the acceptance of state responsibility for library service are briefly as follows:

The growth in numbers and importance of libraries supported by city tax;

The adoption of state support and state supervision of public schools;

The recognition of libraries as a part of the educational system;

Inability of city, school or college libraries and county libraries as at present developed to supply the book needs of the state, and

The examples of traveling library systems operated by other agencies.

The results of state wide library service have been, briefly, to increase the educational facilities, to supply books to bookless communities, to promote the establishment and efficiency of public libraries and to assist in providing Books for Everybody.

County library development discussed by Mr Utley, Miss Long and others emphasized the value of a system of book distribution that is at once economical and affords a wider opportunity and greater satisfaction than anything that has preceded it in the way of traveling libraries, etc.

#### Greetings from other associations

The remainder of the morning was devoted to receiving the greetings from other national associations. Dr K. L. Butterfield spoke for the American Country Life association, Mary L. Titcomb for the General Federation of women's clubs, Miss Annie C. Woodward for the National Education association and Mrs Halsey W. Wilson for the National league of women voters.

The reporters had an additional pleasure in listening to Mrs Wilson as few speakers who appeared on the program during the week had so fitting a mode of expression or voices with such carrying power and the note of her address was inspiring to the weary librarians who perforce are compelled to listen to much talk marked "patriotism" that might well be called by another name.

#### Sixth general session Saturday night

Vice-president H. H. B. Meyer, at the invitation of the president, introduced the speakers of the evening. The theme for the occasion was

#### Today's tendencies in book publishing

The first speaker was Mr Glenn Frank of the *Century Magazine* who spoke without notes on the New temper of the reading public. Mr Frank is perhaps too well-known to librarians for them to make the accusation against him which he said he once received at a lecture, namely, that he had taken his speech bodily from the *Century Magazine* where one of his audience was sure he had read it.

Mr Frank, in getting down to his subject, acknowledged that he didn't know much about the statistics of reading in the United States today but he was sure of four of his own convictions in regard to the reading public and these he elaborated in his address. He said in part:

There is a very large reading public today of books and magazines that are 1) serious as to content, 2) simple, 3) self-contained as to method and 4) courageous in manner and uncensored.

There is a large reading public for solid facts, presented in and interpreted by books and magazines. The American critics in discussing things too often takes eddies for currents and currents for eddies.

Politicians declared during the war and in preparation for it, that we were bigger and better than ever before, that we were really eager and ready to face fresh problems with fresh minds cleared of *impedimenta*. The facts do not bear out the claim. What has come is a George Harveyized cynicism that attempts to in-

terpret the United States, concerned chiefly with its property rights. The reaction is in evidence but it is not the real thing.

Many politicians assumed that the election results were proof that business men, by the overthrow of the Wilson ideas, were freed from human interests and that again "prosperity" was the sole interest of business. Mr Frank denied this and said that there is no moral slump in the real people. Any politician who prefers national selfishness to international service betrays the real intellectual and moral American.

The editor who permits the stand-pat politician to touch the temper of his soul, assuming that the national mind is tired, that it may be tickled but must not be stimulated or informed, has lost touch with his time. Too many editorial minds are working too much in the suburbs of the national mind rather than in its center. Mr Frank made a plea for the simple, clear writing that both Main street and Wall street will understand, rather than the befogging attempts at the intellectual stuff.

Material written for the general public should carry a back-ground of itself that will suit the needs of the average reader, lest he lose its value either thru lack of interest because of his lack of knowledge or because he has not time to look up the material that is taken for granted.

Fourth and last, Mr Frank said the country was coming back and it was high time it did so, to older American devotion to unfettered freedom of speech, press and assembly, without the organizations manned by those who took a leave-of-absence from their business and their judgment as well, to censor the American public.

It is time for writers and publishers to face facts squarely and frankly without keeping a weather-eye upon those who during the war so thoroly appointed themselves guardians of our ideas and of our loyalty.

Mr Frank closed with the story of the policeman who tried to capture the Dukhobor and emphasized the point that one

should be able to tell the policeman from the Dukhobor.

Mr Frank was followed by Mr Harcourt of New York on Ferment and fact (See p. 377).

H. F. Jenkins of Boston then discussed The nation's appetite for fiction (See p. 376).

The next step in extending the use of books was presented by Mr F. G. Melcher, secretary of the National association of book publishers. Mr Melcher pointed out marks of progress in the production of books in the past 150 years. First, business is young, comparatively speaking, and youth is full of hope. Second, the wealth of our community is so much greater than anything we have touched yet that the small amount that has been used for libraries is encouraging in looking at what has not yet been attacked. But making clear the worth of one's work, the money for it will be sure to come.

#### Closing events

Mrs H. J. Carr offered a resolution of sympathy and fraternal affection, to be sent to Miss Harriet L. Matthews, for so many years librarian at Lynn. She was one of those who attended the first meeting of the A. L. A. but is now seriously ill. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

A letter from the New Ocean House by Mr E. R. Grabow, expressed the pleasure of the management in having the A. L. A. as their guests and extended a cordial invitation for a return engagement. Miss Tyler invited Mr Grabow to the platform where he was most heartily received. After an expression of good-will on the part of the president, Mr Grabow was requested to tell something of the libraries which he has installed upon the boats belonging to the Union Fruit Company, of which he is the president. These consist of collections of books from 150 to 350 volumes, much appreciated by the men aboard the vessels.

At the close of his address, Mr Grabow presented the president with a handsome bouquet of beautiful roses in expression of the esteem of and pleasure

in, the presence of the A. L. A. at the New Ocean House.

The resolutions sent in from the Council were adopted.

The report of the election tellers was then given:

#### Officers for 1921-22

The following officers were elected: President, Azariah S. Root, librarian, Oberlin College library, Oberlin, Ohio; first vice-president, Samuel H. Ranck, librarian, Public library, Grand Rapids, Mich.; second vice-president, Claribel R. Barnett, librarian, U. S. Department of Agriculture library, Washington, D. C.; treasurer, Edward D. Tweedell, assistant librarian, The John Crerar library, Chicago, Illinois.

Executive Board: Miss Gratia A. Countryman, librarian, Public library, Minneapolis, Minn., Carl B. Roden, librarian, Public library, Chicago, Illinois, George S. Godard, librarian, Connecticut state library, Hartford, Conn., Harman H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., Margaret Mann, Engineering Societies library, New York.

Trustee of endowment fund: J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., trustee, Boston Athenaeum, Boston, Mass.

Members of the council: George H. Locke, chief librarian, Public library, Toronto, Ont., Canada, Cornelia Marvin, librarian, Oregon state library, Salem, Oregon, Fannie C. Rawson, secretary, Kentucky library commission, Frankfort, Ky., Robert K. Shaw, librarian, Free public library, Worcester, Mass., Adam Strohm, librarian, Public library, Detroit, Mich., W. E. Henry, librarian, University of Washington library, Seattle, Wash., Margaret Mann, chief cataloger, United Engineering Societies library, New York City, Laura Smith, chief of catalog and reference departments, Public library, Cincinnati, Ohio, Charles Martel, chief of catalog division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. and Julia A. Robinson, secretary, Iowa library commission, Des Moines, Iowa.

Miss Tyler as retiring president, invited the incoming president, Mr Root, to

the platform and presented him the gavel and the best wishes of everybody concerned for a happy and successful administration. Mr Root responded happily and the president declared the forty-third annual meeting of the A. L. A. adjourned.

#### Council proceedings

There were two meetings of the Council, one on Thursday evening at which the subject was Library revenues.

William F. Yust of Rochester, New York, reviewed the recent legislation on library revenues. The trend in this matter has been upward and for the better tho here and there remain a few things that still call for attention.

William J. Hamilton of Indiana presented arguments on the question

#### Should public library boards have the power to levy the library tax?

Mr Hamilton felt that such powers would be decidedly advantageous to the library and to the community which would benefit by strengthened library service. The library board has the interests of the library at heart, knows its needs intimately and is usually free from political influences that might dominate a city council. With a maximum tax rate set by the legislature to allow for varying library interests thruout a state, the library board can be entrusted to specify the particular millage rate the local institution needs, without detriment to the community's welfare.

The primary purpose of a library board is to provide good library service and they should have the power to provide it. Carnegie Corporation contracts and staff provision requirements are most satisfactorily and surely complied with when library boards have the direct power over funds. The existence of a library usually means that a city has approved of its establishment by election or petition and this of itself implies approval of its adequate maintenance.

A library board in close touch with the library, with what is accomplished and with its problems, is a better judge of what the community

should spend for the institution than a school board or a city council not directly familiar nor particularly interested in the work and its value. Enlarged powers for the library boards mean a more vital interest and harder work, just because boards can do things, not merely accept what others provide; they expend in service, vitality and forces which are theirs to use instead of having to spend energy in obtaining the financial backing needed for the work.

W. O. Carson, Provincial inspector of public libraries for Ontario, gave an informative address on the

#### Public library rate in Ontario

He said in part:

The public library rate in the Ontario Public Libraries Act of 1920 provides that a library board may cause a tax to be levied to the extent of that rate on the dollar of taxable assessment that will yield 50 cents per capita of the population of the constituency to be served, and that the municipal council may increase the rate. This rate basis establishes a new principle in taxation for a public benefit. The speaker believes that the basis is sound, that the clause is workable, and that it is fair to both the libraries and the public. Every Ontario library is under the control of an appointed board, its independence being ensured by reason of the appointing powers being divided. Boards have always been entitled to a fixed maximum rate. The former rate of one-half mill on the dollar was not satisfactory owing to great variations in bases of assessment. The half-mill gave a few libraries all that was required, but the majority of places found it entirely inadequate. Ontario with its 440 public libraries required a law that would place them all in a position to give good library service on an adequate scale. It was found that no fixed rate or rates on the dollar would work. And, as libraries serve people and not property, the Department of Education decided that they should have an income according to population.

After a study of library costs, the Department considered that a good quality

of library service could be given with an income of 50 cents per capita from taxation for ordinary expenditure based on a standard of four books per capita in cities and five books in smaller places as a circulation for home reading, with reference and reading room service in proportion. It was their opinion that a library expending more than 50 cents per capita for ordinary expenditure should give either a larger or more elaborate service than the Department had in mind when forming a standard. The Ontario rate has been highly commended by all concerned. It was presented before the Provincial legislature by the Honorable Mr Grant, minister of education, and received the unanimous vote of the legislators.

#### Tax rate in United States

Samuel H. Ranck of Grand Rapids followed in discussing How such a law would affect some of the United States libraries. Mr Ranck said he agreed with Mr Carson that the proper basis for library support is the number of people to be served in the community rather than the amount of property possessed. He referred to the law in Michigan which gives the penal money to the library. The assessed valuation is so fluctuating that the state has to step in to equalize it. He recited an instance where one child has \$35 of taxable property and another has only \$1.

He referred to Scranton, Pa., and Grand Rapids having about the same population. The difference in the assessed valuation of the two cities is \$100,000,000 in favor of Grand Rapids.

The people in the rural districts are not getting adequate support either in education or libraries. Investigation shows that there has been an increase of about 20 per cent in the library income in 1921 over 1920. The sources of library income are further complicated and made unequal by the various things included. In Massachusetts, the dog tax is an important source of revenue for the library and the question of endowment deserves attention as a source of income. Book fines is another source of revenue.

South of the Mason and Dixon line, only Kansas City receives over a 50c tax per capita. Many cities in the northern and eastern parts of the country are receiving more than \$1 per capita from city revenues. The highest is East Cleveland where the per capita revenue is \$1.36. The per capita library tax in Newton, Mass., is \$1.22½. Gary, Indiana, receives \$1.25. This does not include the amount Gary receives for the work in the townships where the income is considerably more.

Pennsylvania has the lowest per capita support for libraries of any northern state. Only one city, Pittsburgh, has more than 50c per capita for library purposes. Mr Ranck said his native town had the lowest on the list, 5.6c per capita, but this city has in addition a good reference library which is endowed.

The A. L. A. ought to declare its belief publicly that a reasonable minimum for the support of libraries which should be held up as necessary, is \$1 per capita.

Mr Wright of Missouri made a plea for honest assessment. They have accomplished this in Missouri this year and it gives an increase of 55 per cent to the schools and libraries. If the library people would join the teachers in the matter of securing honest assessment, there would not be so much worry about low salaries and short back funds.

Mr Godard of Connecticut said that assessment ought to receive more attention from everybody. In Pawtucket, Rhode Island, when the Business Men's association inquired as to assessments, it was found that the city had not been assessed for 20 or 25 years. As a result, the city valuation has jumped from \$76,000,000 in 1919 to \$129,000,000 in 1920.

Mr Hill thought that the librarians were looking at the matter in a selfish way and that they ought not to want to get money for the library without taking into consideration other departments of the city that depend on it for support. He said he did not think that a library board ought to have the power to say to the city how much money it wanted. If the library board can say how much

money should go toward the library, so can the street-cleaning department and every other department that receives money from the city. He said that he was not quite sure that many of the librarians present would care to have what Mr Ranck thinks we ought to have, \$1 per capita. He said that he felt that he would have to do a good deal of studying to spend \$2,000,000 on the Public library of the Borough of Brooklyn and he did not think in justice to other institutions of the city that he would have any right to spend \$1 per capita.

The president expressed the opinion that taxation was going to be a very live question for some time to come and that a committee for further study and a possible statement regarding it would be advisable.

There was considerable discussion calling attention to the necessity that clearly defined principles relating to library revenues should be established. The consensus of opinion was that the study should be continued and that final investigation should be put forth in the form of something expressing the standards for various cities. It was finally voted that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to consider further the question of library revenues and to present a report at the next meeting of the Council.

At the second session of the Council on Saturday afternoon, the subject was Recruiting for library service but this question having been transferred to the Professional Training section, the Council proceeded to discuss other matters.

The first of these was with regard to the appointment of committees. The president called attention to the three questions raised in the report: Has the Council the constitutional right to create committees or instruct the president to appoint committees; should committees so created be made up of persons who are members of the Council; and what is the power of such a committee? Reference was also made to the fact that nowhere is it implied or provided that the president of the association is *ex*



*officio* the chairman of the Council or that that body has not the right to elect its presiding officer from its membership at large.

Considerable discussion followed as to whether the reports of the committees might be said to represent the association. Mr Raney thought that the committee's work might be said, under proper procedure, to be the preparing of bills which should ultimately come before the Council for their adoption as the policy of the association or finally before the association itself and that a committee by commending any policy might, before the association or the Council had a chance to give a real study to it, commit the association to a principle or policy which did not commend itself to the majority of the association.

Attention was called to the phrase in the new constitution stating that the Council shall "promptly consider and discuss such questions of professional and public interest as are referred to it by the association, its committees or boards, and it shall receive, consider and promptly act upon all reports and recommendations made by committees of the association."

Attention was also called to the fact that the new constitution gives the Executive Board the power to appoint all officers and committees of the association not otherwise provided for.

After considerable discussion of what should be done with committee reports, particularly in the matter of having them ready before the meeting, finally, at the request of the secretary, a motion was carried that the committee reports should be in the hands of the secretary at a date suited to his convenience and that copies of these reports should be sent to the members of the Council one month before the first meeting of the Council.

Comment and criticism was made of the fact that so few people had read the reports in print before coming to the meeting.

Considerable discussion arose over the phraseology of the report of the committee on certification, some seeming to

think it contained hard and fast directions despite the fact that the matter was presented as "tentative" thruout. Suggestions as to details seemed to have been taken up as evident facts. The president called attention to the fact that the present effort was to seek some way by which continuity of effort might be made towards securing a national board of certification which it is hoped to create sometime in the future. Finally the recommendations of the committee for the organization and incorporation of the certification board whenever funds are available, that a committee shall seek to find funds and that articles of incorporation should be secured, were adopted. A further report on the matter is to be presented at the mid-winter meeting of the Council.

The report of the committee on the request of the Library Workers association for affiliation was accepted.

#### Resolutions

A resolution from the Library department of the National Education Association endorsing the providing of libraries in all kinds of schools was adopted.

It was voted that an expression of sympathy be sent to Mr J. G. Moulton, president of the Massachusetts library club, the host of the occasion, and to Mr R. R. Bowker, as members of the Council in their illness.

A resolution indorsing the Towner-Sterling bill and urging upon the president of the United States and members of Congress the creation of a governmental division devoted to the stimulation of library activities in the United States was adopted.

A resolution was adopted referring to the reclassification of the government civil service and calling attention to the disintegration of the service in government libraries thru loss of trained and experienced members of the staff who can not afford to remain at the low salaries now paid. It was urged that this be arrested as soon as possible and that the A. L. A. indorse the general principles of the reclassification and urge upon Congress the immediate passage of

a measure for the reclassification of government service.

Another resolution stated that the A. L. A. for the third time indorses the establishment of a clearing-house for more intelligent distribution of government information and for the third time urges the adoption of bills S. 61 and H. R. 4385.

Another resolution adopted was that providing for the erection of a national archives building at Washington.

A resolution of greeting was sent to the National Association of Book Publishers expressing a hope for constructive coöperation between the two associations.

A resolution urging the members of the A. L. A. to coöperate with the National Dante committee in commemoration of the sixth centenary of the death of Dante was adopted.

A communication from the catalog section of the A. L. A. (See p. 407) was followed by a resolution asking the Executive Board to consider the advisability of sending a representative to Washington to urge such action as will enable the Library of Congress to compete successfully with other libraries and with business houses in securing capable assistants, which was unanimously adopted.

Miss Chandler of the catalog section, on the invitation of the president, said that the feeling of the catalog section is that without the Library of Congress catalog during the last few years when there has been such a shortage of catalogers, the catalog departments of the country would have been shipwrecked. She said further that a single, well-trained cataloger in the Library of Congress is worth 100 scattered over the country since her work is available to every one and that the best that librarians can do to strengthen their own work and the welfare of the library which the catalogers serve, will be to help the Library of Congress secure competent workers. The Council also endorsed this idea unanimously.

A resolution was adopted relating to the ruling by the Department of Labor

that trained library assistants are classed as skilled labor, and expressing the idea of the A. L. A. that trained library assistants are professional workers within the meaning of the exemption under the law of such persons from its provisions, and calling attention to the fact that library assistants have been ruled to be professional workers in other government departments. It was unanimously "resolved that the American Library Association respectfully and solemnly protests against any classification that places librarians in any other rank than that of professional workers, and earnestly requests that the Department of Labor will revise its classification to correspond with the facts of the case."

The recital of the fact of a gift of \$20,000 being made by the American Colony in Peru, S. A., for a Peruvian national traveling library system, commemorating its centenary was followed by a motion which was carried, that the secretary of the A. L. A. send greetings and congratulations from the A. L. A. to the American Colony in Peru.

Another resolution that was adopted was that relating to the matter of disarmament and urging the President of the United States and Congress to make the initiative movement leading to a reduction of armament at the earliest possible moment and further, that a request be made by the members of the A. L. A. to their individual congressmen for such action and that a record be made of the replies.

A discussion followed relating to the question as to whether the Carnegie gifts to libraries were to be resumed and when. Miss Downey expressed great concern saying "the matter was at the foundation of library work from the top to the bottom." It was finally resolved that the A. L. A. communicate to the Carnegie Corporation its interest in the resumption of its program in behalf of libraries.

#### Catalog section, A. L. A.

The Catalog section met on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, June 21 and 22, Ellen M. Chandler, of the Buffalo public library, presiding.

The general subject of the first session was "The catalog situation—what has become of the catalogers?" To aid in solving the problem it had been decided to call into council those who are interested in library training, and the invitation to attend the meeting met with cordial response. The subject seemed to comprise, first, a general survey of the purpose and field of cataloging and its value to the users of libraries, and second, the question of making the work more attractive to those who are competent to do it.

The first speaker was Dr Archibald Cary Coolidge, director of Harvard University library, who discussed the Objects of cataloging, from the standpoint of the large public library, ministering to the general public and to scholars, but with limited funds. He emphasized the need of choosing different methods in dealing with different kinds of books, in both classification and cataloging, in order to make each kind most useful at least cost, and he indicated many ways of effecting such economies. He urged the minimizing of entries for material of little value or of infrequent use, such as old scientific treatises and books in little known languages, and deplored the Library of Congress' multiplication of overlapping subheads under names of countries, states, etc. He advocated subdividing books of description, under place names, by date, and, in large collections, separating contemporary accounts from later descriptions. The successful cataloger, he said, needs common sense, the power of quick decision and of distinguishing the important from the unimportant, and also comprehension and imagination. "The object of cataloging is to make knowledge available to the public, and, as in the case of writing books, the best results can be attained only by clearness of thought, skillful arrangement and wise restriction. A good library catalog is a thing to be proud of. It renders a very real service to the public and takes an honorable place

among the agencies that contribute to the progress of our civilization."

Dr Louise Fargo Brown, associate-professor of history, Vassar college, spoke for the user of catalogs—"the ultimate consumer"—and told of her "Adventures with catalogs," especially for research work, in both Europe and America. Her message was one of appreciation of careful classification and cataloging. See page 371.

Mrs Frances Rathbone Coe, of the Massachusetts state library, read a suggestive paper on "Making the dry side of cataloging interesting," and soon convinced her audience that cataloging has no dry side. See page 367.

After a few words from Mr Martel, who told us that our question was answered—"The catalogers are all at Swampscott," a letter from J. C. M. Hanson, of the University of Chicago library, was read. Mr Hanson closed his contribution to our discussion by suggesting that some action be taken by the section, or the A. L. A., to express appreciation of the great service done for the libraries of the country by the Library of Congress in making its cards available to them, and to urge upon Congress that adequate financial support be given to the Library of Congress to prevent its continual serious loss of expert workers. Later it was voted that a committee be appointed to draw up a communication to be sent to the Council of the A. L. A., and Mr Currier, Miss Monrad and Dr Van Hoesen were appointed such committee. See page 407.

The discussion of the cataloging situation was participated in by Mr Martel, Miss Margaret Mann, who spoke as chairman of the sub-committee on the training of catalogers—a sub-committee of the A. L. A. committee on Library Training, Miss Lindstedt, Miss Rathbone, Miss Poland, Mr Currier, Mr Windsor, Miss Hedrick, Miss Gooch, Miss Mary Baker, Miss Adelaide F. Evans, Miss Monrad, Miss Hyde, and others. Many interesting points were brought out in the explanation of the dearth of catalogers. The principal causes seem to be small salaries; monot-

onous work, often quite apart from the rest of the library organization; the strong emphasis, in both speech and print, on the social side of library work—"work with the public," work with foreigners, children's work, etc.; a tendency among catalogers to talk about details of method instead of their real purpose—the making of a library's books usable by its readers; and a tendency on the part of library folk generally to speak disparagingly of catalog work as being uninteresting and a necessary evil. Miss Grant, of Western Reserve University library school, and Miss Gooch, of Pratt institute, had collected expressions of opinion from the graduating classes this year, and both reported that the students liked cataloging but did not want to be catalogers.

The remedies suggested were: a salary scale which recognizes the highly technical character of the cataloger's work and the special ability and training necessary for it; more diversity of work, especially by combination of cataloging and reference work; more individual responsibility for definite undertakings, or kinds of work; more real effort to make known the interesting and cultural side of the cataloger's work and the satisfaction of doing well the task of making the library's resources available. Several of those connected with university libraries felt that catalogers should be allowed some time for study, especially if able to carry some university work. Another point noted several times was that of the frequent serious loss to the library of that important by-product of cataloging—the cataloger's intimate knowledge of the books she catalogs. It was urged that more use of this knowledge and of her previous training be made in the reference and perhaps other departments.

On Wednesday afternoon, the chairman reported that, in compliance with the resolution adopted at the meeting last year, she had undertaken a registration of catalogers. A questionnaire not being practicable she had issued a call thru the library periodicals and 270 catalogers had registered, of whom 108

desired or would consider change of position, usually with higher salary. She also stated that Miss Bogle would welcome the file at Headquarters. The section voted to turn over the file of registration cards to the secretary of the A. L. A., to be kept at Headquarters.

Mr Currier's committee reported a communication to be sent to the Council of the A. L. A. with the suggestion that the Council endorse it and send one copy to the chairman of the Committee on Civil Service, Washington, D. C., and one copy to Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress. It was voted that the report be adopted and the communication be sent to the Council of the A. L. A. before its next meeting.

The communication is as follows:

**Catalog section, A. L. A.**

The Catalog section of the A. L. A. submits to the A. L. A. Council the following suggestion:

The utilization of the printed catalog cards of the Library of Congress by hundreds of American libraries of all types renders the efficiency of these cards and the certainty and promptness of their output a matter of general concern. This efficiency, certainty and promptness depend upon the adequacy and the technical and scholarly competence of the cataloging and classification staff of the Library of Congress. The information given in the librarian's reports that the staff has during the past few years been depleted by the resignation of numerous experts, and that under the existing scale of salaries it is impossible to secure equally competent substitutes to replace them, threatens a catastrophe which will be far-reaching. A resolution, by the Council might aid to avert it. We suggest such a resolution which 1) shall state the fact that the competence of this staff is a matter of general concern, 2) shall emphasize that nothing short of the highest technical accomplishments will suffice to assure it, 3) that the present salary scale is quite insufficient to secure it, and 4) that in the reclassification of the government services, or, should this be delayed, then by emergency legislation, the scale be substantially revised, so that this service shall be placed where justly it belongs, among the highly technical and professional services of the government affecting the general welfare.

Mrs Jennie Thornburg Jennings, of St. Paul, in a paper on How the Library of Congress classification works out in a public library, said in part:

The Saint Paul public library was the first public library to adopt the L. C.

classification as a whole. This was decided on, after its collections had been destroyed by fire, in order to make the new books available for use as rapidly and as economically as possible.

During the two years 1916 and 1917, more than 130,000 volumes were classified, cataloged and made ready for circulation at an average salary cost of about 15 cents per volume. This great work could not have been accomplished without the help of the Library of Congress classification.

From the bibliographical point of view, the L. C. classification has many advantages, but on the other hand certain disadvantages should be noted, e. g. unfinished classes, too minute subdivisions, delays in sending cards, etc.

There are some disadvantages, also, in the practical use of the L. C. classification. Library assistants find it hard to remember the L. C. The lack of mnemonic aids necessitates more use of the catalogue than is the case with the D. C. There are also certain disadvantages in using a system which is not in general use in other libraries.

In a large and rapidly growing library, where much reference or research work is done, the bibliographic and economic advantages of the L. C. classification are great. But for the average public library or school library, the D. C. seems at the present time, to be preferable.

A symposium followed, on methods of dealing with (but not cataloging of) "Refractory material"—music, pamphlets, documents, Great War material, and "Easy books." This was opened by Miss Clara P. Briggs, of Harvard College library, who described the methods by which the remarkable Wendell collection was sorted, classified and absorbed by the Harvard College library in 1918. This collection comprised material ranging from large oil paintings and plaster casts to *carte de visite* photographs, theatrical properties and 100,000 playbills, books, pamphlets and music, autograph letters and posters. "As a whole it illustrated the best of the English and American stage." The collection was not kept together, but dispersed thru the

library, strengthening each special collection.

H. M. Lydenberg described the methods of dealing with pamphlets in the New York public library. Miss Adelaide F. Evans explained those of the Detroit public library, and a letter from Miss Hiss, describing those of the Cleveland public library, was read. Samples of music in various bindings and the Buffalo music envelope were shown. Miss Evans introduced the brief discussion of Great War material, and Miss Zana K. Miller reported several methods of dealing with "easy books" which she had secured from a half dozen libraries. Miss Jessie M. Woodford gave a vivid description of the very live Document department of the Chicago public library.

Dr Henry B. Van Hoesen, assistant librarian of Princeton university, in his discussion of

#### Short cuts in cataloging

emphasized the following points:

First, re-definition of short cataloging as distinguished from full cataloging. This re-definition is occasioned by the feeling that these two terms have meant and still mean different things to different people.

Second, the paper points out the need of a code of rules for a short catalog which should not be simply suggestions as to what may be omitted, but which, like any other cataloging rules, will tell the cataloger what is necessary to include on the catalog card.

Third, the question of the choice between the two methods of cataloging was proposed for discussion, and in the discussion, two lines of reasoning were presented:

- 1) That the choice between the two methods of cataloging must depend on the needs of the users of the library in question. For example, the research users at one library look for books only by author and want merely to locate the book, while the research readers in another library look for a book by subject and want as full a description as possible on the cards, to enable them to choose the book.



2) That the choice between the two methods depends upon the character of the individual book; that our cataloging rules have been too sweeping and universal in their application; that fiction, for example, may not need all the information as to paging, illustration, and so on.

During the meeting of the session, the question of reprinting or getting out a new edition of the A. L. A. List of Subject Headings was touched upon several times. No action was taken, but the suggestion that there be published instead a simplified edition of the Library of Congress list, which could be related in some way to the headings in the *Readers Guide*, and could be easily used by small libraries, met with some approval.

Mrs Jennie Thornburg Jennings, of the Public library of St. Paul, was elected chairman, and Miss Ruth Rosholt, of the Minneapolis public library, was elected secretary of the Catalog section for the coming year.

ELLEN M. CHANDLER,  
Chairman.

#### Lending section

The meeting of the lending section was held on Saturday, p. m., the chairman being Miss Jennie Flexner of the Public library, Louisville, Ky. In the absence of the secretary, Miss Julia F. Carter of the New York public library, was made secretary pro tem.

In introducing the first speaker, Miss Flexner spoke with great appreciation of Mr Brett of Cleveland, Ohio, who, during his lifetime, had given a fine example of Unity thru leadership.

Miss Louise Prouty, supervisor of stations, Cleveland public library, was the first speaker and her subject was,

#### Staff unity thru leadership: how to meet work, fellow-workers and the public

Miss Prouty said that when any idea of unity had been given to them by Mr Brett, he set the standard and maintained it by personal acquaintanceship with his staff.

Cleveland, having been called a large "overgrown" village, had developed along civic-center and commu-

nity ideas with the library as an active civic organization, not a "passive handmaiden in seclusion." They met their public thru the open-shelf system. Theoretically, the librarian met the public thru clubs, organizations outside and committees, but in reality a good part of this was necessarily done by assistants selected according to their fitness. The distances in the city made the unity of the staff a problem, but thru meetings at a weekly round-table at which books were discussed, routine details smoothed out, local affairs reported upon and out-of-town visitors received, this problem was more or less solved. Miss Prouty said that each assistant should be able to attend three meetings, one at which to receive inspiration, the second to learn of the general principles of practice and details and the third to carry back to the members of her own staff that which she had absorbed,—among all things to remember that the library was a large institution with a single aim.

#### Can librarians read?

The second paper, "Can librarians read?" was given by Miss Mary Prescott Parsons, librarian, Public library, Morristown, N. J.

Miss Parsons said that if she could have a library adventure, she would like to ask Christopher Morley to act as "desk assistant" giving his favorite books to the readers. Miss Parsons wrote to Mr Morley and asked him what he would like to do if he were a librarian and he said "smoke" in the library. Miss Parsons went on to say that librarians should not tell people about the books reviewed in the current newspapers but introduce to them older ones not familiar, and she mentioned a few books of real literary value. She also stated that every library should have a "hobby." In Morristown, they tried the experiment of suggesting books that led every one to another, such as Brimming cup, We discover New England, Elizabeth Pen-nell's Night, the biography of Whistler,

Colwin's *Life of Keats*, Keats' *Poems* and the books of Thoreau. Miss Parsons said that librarians can be both practical and well-read by having books discussed at the station meetings, and by allowing a number of hours for reading. Some of the books Miss Parsons suggested were Adams' *Mont St. Mitchel* and Chatres, Tilden's *Tennis*, Rittenhouse's two *Anthologies of poetry*, Colum's poems of the Irish revolution.

Miss Parsons made the point that books which librarians themselves have read, are the ones that are most often taken home by the readers. She spoke of special methods that a number of different librarians are using to bring these books to the attention of their readers and then considered whether it is possible with libraries organized as they are today for librarians really to be readers.

Tho it is not impossible now, it will be difficult so long as librarians devote most of their 40 or 42 working hours each week to cataloging, filing, slipping books, advertising and other matters of routine and so long as they work for salaries that encourage them to spend outside time in cooking, sewing and washing. They may be willing and eager to spend their remaining hours in reading but they must have time for sleep, outdoor exercise and varying experiences if their minds are to be kept alert to appreciate and to remember what they read.

If some library can be selected as a laboratory and an experiment be made in doubling the number of the staff and, therefore, the reading time of each staff member who serves the public, definite results may be looked for within a year, which will prove the actual value of reading in library work. Other libraries might take advantage of this knowledge and in time there might be enough people on every staff to do good work all the time.

Just now when social, religious and personal standards are changing so rapidly it is more important than ever for librarians to read. They must do so in order to select useful books, to

learn new ideas from other kinds of work and to enable their libraries not to follow public opinion but to lead it.

#### Overdue and messenger work

The third paper, by Marcia M. Furnas, chief, delivery department, Public library, Indianapolis, followed. Miss Furnas' paper was a resumé of the questionnaire sent out to 12 libraries on the subject of Overdue and messenger work.

1. How many overdue notices?  
2 libraries reported one notice and then a messenger; 10 libraries reported two notices.
2. Is there a messenger?  
7 reported "yes."  
5 reported "yes, off and on."
3. Qualifications of messenger and salary.  
These replies varied from a page at 30 cents an hour, a janitor with more than usual qualifications to a special investigator with power of representing the library at court with a salary of \$2,000 a year.
4. If the messenger failed, what was the next step taken?  
The majority of cases referred the matter to the police.
5. If the borrower had moved, the messenger tried to get information at the house. After that the library appealed to the business address and the employer under the reference.
6. When are the books taken from the library records?  
The reports varied from two months to two years.
7. Per cent of recovery of messenger books.  
The reports showed from 5 to 97 per cent were recovered.

The open discussion which followed brought forth many suggestions. In Washington, D. C., members of the station made personal visits and were most successful in obtaining overdue books.

In Cambridge, Mass., after two notices had been disregarded, a personal letter in a plain envelope often recovered the book.

Minneapolis has a court of conciliation wherein problems involving anything of less value than \$25 are settled. There is a library day once in so often and their overdue problems are settled at this time. In Tampa, Florida, the police furnish a car and a chauffeur to take a member of the station about recovering overdues. Several libraries

had a maximum limit for fines, Pasadena 30c, Detroit 50c, Chicago 60c, while Toronto had the price of the book. Queenboro, N. Y., writes asking the borrower to either return the book by parcel post or to pay the price of the book. This method had been quite successful.

"Circulation short cuts" by Miss Grace B. Finney, chief, circulation department, Public library, Washington, D. C., was read by Miss Jean MacDonald. Miss Finney stated that it was necessary to cut detail work, as the aim now is to serve the public satisfactorily and as quickly as possible, and with a depleted staff, detail must be more or less curtailed. But one form of member's card is used. If necessary it is stamped "teacher" or "special" as the case may be, rather than a different form of card being used. A page stands by the discharging desk ready to get from the stacks the reader's request. A trained typist is employed and Miss Finney pointed out that the employment of skilled clerical work saved half of the librarian's day. Only one overdue notice is sent. A request for special subjects is kept on small catalog cards at the reference desk in order that difficult problems may not be looked up more than once and all available material may be readily at hand without hours of searching.

"Where is my borrower's card?" by Miss Helen M. Ward, chief of circulation, Public library, Detroit, Michigan, was the subject of the next paper. Miss Ward claimed no originality nor perfection for her scheme, but convenience and simplicity. The reader registers in the usual way and receives in lieu of a member's card an identification card bearing the reader's number; whenever the reader desires to borrow books, for they give an unlimited number in Detroit, he presents his card and his books are stamped and given to him, while his number is placed on the book card. This method is not used for children.

In reply to questions, Miss Ward

stated that there had been no difficulty with losses and duplicate numbers. In the case of fines less than 10c, the amount was written on the identification card. If there was a fine for more than that amount, a note was placed on the identification card, and the card kept on file.

#### When is my book due?

was presented by Mrs Jessie Sargent McNiece of St. Louis as follows:

The subject which I am to discuss is Rubber Stamps and when it was first proposed to me, I confess that I somewhat envied the fluency of Mr Irwin Cobb, who is said to have boasted that he could write 5000 words about a peanut! Prosaic and uninteresting as they may seem, rubber stamps can make or mar our efficiency and are really the key to our relations with our borrowers. When correct we may take them for granted, but when they blur or when they are missing, what hours of work they may cause us, to say nothing of regrettable argument.

There are as we all know two schools of stamping. One answers the question, "When is my book due?" by replying, "Look at your card," or if the card has been consigned to limbo, "Look at your label." The other answers tersely, "Get a calendar!" Let me confess at once that I hold a brief for the first system. I can say to a new borrower, "This is the date when you return your book" and it means something to him; but if I were to say "This date shows that you are getting your book to-day," he has a perfect right to retort, "Why don't you tell me something I don't know?"

Let us in all fairness admit nevertheless that there are real advantages connected with the practice of stamping the date of issue. Fewer stamps are required, with consequent lessening of danger in confusing them or setting them inaccurately, and more important, a greatly simplified file of circulation, giving more speed and less chance for error in book slipping. But are not these gains wholly for the library assistant, and of no value or even exist-

ence from the standpoint of the public? On the other hand we do owe it to our public to simplify in every way feasible our charging machinery, which seems to him formidable enough at best and we should give him every reasonable opportunity to avoid over detention and consequent fines.

Briefly then, it is apparent by stamping the date of issue we avoid a multiplicity of stamps and achieve a simple and easily handled circulation file, while by stamping the date due we inform the borrower exactly when he is expected to return his book. The question thus resolves itself into the choice of conveniencing ourselves or "serving the public."

The following officers were selected:

For chairman, John A. Lowe of Brooklyn; Miss Edith Vermeule of Seattle, vice-chairman; Miss Mary Rothrock of Knoxville, Tenn., secretary-treasurer.

#### Agricultural libraries section

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Libraries section of the A. L. A. was held on the evening of June 21 with Mr Malcolm Wyer of the University of Nebraska in the chair. Before proceeding to the regular program, Mr H. W. Wilson was given an opportunity to present the problem of financing the *Agricultural Index* which he stated was not paying expenses. After some discussion the chair was authorized to appoint a committee of three to meet with Mr Wilson and endeavor to arrive at a solution of the problem.

Miss Eunice R. Oberly of the Bureau of Plant Industry presented a paper entitled, Contributions of librarians to agricultural history and research, showing a debt of not inconsiderable size.

Miss Alice M. Dougan of Purdue University library read Mr Hepburn's paper, A study of agricultural library buildings. This was followed by discussion and Mr Green of Massachusetts Agricultural college exhibited the plans for his prospective new building.

A paper prepared by Charles E. Babcock, librarian, Pan American Union, gave an informing address relating to

#### Latin-American official agricultural magazines

This article divides the official agricultural publications of the American republics into four general groups: Annual reports of the departments of agriculture, which are limited to the administrative work of the departments; a monthly or quarterly magazine generally known as a *Boletin* or a *Revista*, devoted to the theory and practice of agriculture; a serial publication issued at irregular intervals and somewhat similar to the *Farmer's Bulletins* of the United States; and pamphlets on the various branches of agriculture containing specific information of use to the farmer. The article is limited to discussing the agricultural magazines and takes up each one separately, giving the name and address of the publisher, number of pages, size, and a brief description of one issue. A list of all the departments or bureaus of agriculture is included and as an added feature the author included a list of national societies of agriculture.

The papers on Latin-American agricultural periodicals and Agricultural publications in Canada will be published in the *Proceedings*.

The chairman also spoke of the numerous suggestions for reform in the publication of agricultural bulletins which had been sent to the section for consideration. It was voted to refer these to the National Editorial Association.

The following officers were elected:

President, Miss Lucy E. Fay, University of Tennessee library, Knoxville; secretary, Miss Mary G. Lacy, Department of Agriculture library, Washington, D. C.

WILLARD P. LEWIS,  
Acting secretary

#### Children's librarians

The Children's Librarians' section was most practical in dealing with the questions relating to children's literature and children's reading. It was not so much the technical or professional sides that were emphasized but the quality, kind and effect of the reading which children

do thru the influence and direction of children's libraries.

An interesting phase was the presentation of the reaction in a number of places of the efforts of the librarians to get the children's point of view regarding the books which they had read and the relation of books to their school and other interests. Miss Smith, supervisor of the children's work in the Public library of Toronto, Canada, read some interesting letters which the children had sent in regarding certain books which they had read.

The question of reading for credits and the value and manner of story-hours and clubs received considerable attention.

A report on the children's library work in France which is being directed by Miss Jessie Carson assisted by Miss Green, Miss O'Connor and other librarians in the devastated regions of France, was sent by Miss Annie Carroll Moore, New York public library. This gave a vivid picture of the good work that is being done in this regard. A film which was loaned by the American Committee for the Devastated Regions of France showed the different phases of the library work among the children and in some instances among the adults in the villages and schools of France. The film was extremely good. The scenes were natural and illuminating and every one who saw it was delighted. This film will remain in America for some little time and will be available for library clubs, associations and meetings that may wish to use it.

Alice M. Jordan, supervisor of work with children in the Boston public library, made the report for the Committee on the production of children's books, covering the following points:

1. There has been little change in the manufacturing cost of books and consequently lower prices cannot be expected, yet.

2. The committee's correspondence with libraries and publishers concerning books out of print resulted in the republication of 17 titles desired.

3. Inquiries have been made of publishers as to the feasibility of securing books of good quality in paper covers, to compete with the undesirable type of books sold at newsstands, etc. The conditions surrounding book production make this an impossible proposition commercially, at present.

4. The committee notes the cordial spirit in which publishers meet their suggestions, with appreciation.

5. It recommends further efforts to obtain republication of certain other desirable books.

It recommends also, that individual librarians make specific reports to publishers concerning books of poor wearing quality.

#### Trustees section

The trustees section met on Friday evening with an interested group of trustees in attendance, much larger than has been present for a long time. The president, Mr Pettingell of Los Angeles, was detained at the last moment from attendance and the chair was occupied by Mrs Elizabeth C. Earle of Indiana.

The first speaker of the evening was Mr J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., of the board of trustees of the Boston Athenaeum, who dealt with the subject of the Proportion of public expenditures to be claimed for public libraries. Mr Coolidge quoted largely from the report of the Massachusetts library commissioners from which he made a statement that the Massachusetts libraries spent one and one-half per cent of the total municipal tax for library purposes. The adequacy of this sum depends on the valuation to be assessed. Boston spends 82c per capita for its Public library. Other cities vary, but in general, it might be said that the minimum proportion is one and one-half per cent of the entire sum of the taxes while the maximum would culminate in the ideal.

"The duties of a library trustee" as presented by W. T. J. Lee, chairman of the Public library board of Toronto, Canada, would seem to be the financial matters of the public library which are the full and first responsibility of the board. Library boards should take the



position that it is not fair for them to do less in preserving the income of an institution of which they have undertaken to be trustees than they would for their own personal interests.

Mr Lee told of an incident in the city of Toronto when the city council cut the library appropriation \$11,000 below the sum allowed by law, whereupon he brought action, sued the city and recovered the full amount deducted. This set a precedent which not only has protected the library funds since but has aided the school board when its appropriation has been threatened. He urged library trustees to join the A. L. A., to attend its meetings and to increase their knowledge by exchange of opinions and experiences with members of library boards in various parts of the country.

Mr Clarence E. Bement, trustee of the Public library of Lansing, Michigan, spoke generally on the Relations between the librarians and the library boards. He compared the transactions of conducting a library to the business activities in a large corporation. To create a feeling of loyalty among the employees, loyalty to the common interests and to the employees must be shown by the directors. It is fatal to let it be seen that the business and personal trust is impaired. If a librarian who is the superintendent of the works is employed, he should be trusted; if not worthy of trust, he should be dismissed. The council, the board and the librarians have got to do business together. This can be best transacted by keeping in mind that every factor is just as human as every other one.

Mr Henry W. Lamb of the Brookline public library gave one of the most inspiring addresses of the evening. He took the position that trustees are justified in an effort to secure men-of-affairs on library boards and urged that these men accept such positions and remain on the boards. They grow in usefulness as their knowledge of what other libraries are doing increases and they also gain new ideas for their own work. Besides, there is a growing joy in the labor of caring for the library's interest and growth.

Mr Lamb very strongly emphasized the value, on a library board, of some trustees who are rather men-of-affairs and of wide acquaintance in the community than members of the scholarly professions.

Such trustees are especially qualified to deal with the budgets and appropriations; but in the consideration of other matters, they reflect outside opinion and thus mediate between the public and the library, serving both.

The object was, not only to urge the choice of such trustees, but to convince the men themselves that their service would be of real value and to persuade them to accept the position and to enter upon its duties in the full confidence of that belief.

The Function of the library trustee was further elaborated by the Reverend Dr Alexander Mann, president of the board of trustees of the Boston public library, who opened his address with a witty story from Malachi. He emphasized anew the need of confidence on the part of the board in the librarian they have chosen. Trustees often retain the outsiders' attitude. This is deplorable. They should enter at once into a partnership that gives support, gives advice when called upon, honestly and fairly, to the librarian and which gives special currents of friendliness to the public feeling. They can easily learn the groups of people in the community and steer their course accordingly. One matter in which the trustee has no function is to receive or pass on criticism from members of the staff, all such transactions to be carried on thru the librarian.

Dr Mann told of the library spirit that is growing up in Boston among groups of citizens who are encouraged to feel that the library provisions of their community are the result of community action. This course has led to a very perceptible and helpful increase in friendly interest toward the neighborhood library in many instances.

One of the speakers of the evening said that many trustees violate the spirit of the constitution which divides the

government into three forms because library trustees think they must legislate, judge and administer, all at the same time.

An erroneous statement was made by another library trustee that "in the West" all library trustees are parts of school boards.

The report of the committee on pensions and benefits for librarians was not presented as none of the committee was present. This will appear in print, however.

#### **The meeting at the Boston public library**

Words must fail to give an adequate description of the meeting held on Thursday evening at the Boston public library. Evidently the board of trustees of that library and the library commissioners of Massachusetts were making a record for permanent memory in the minds of their visitors and unrestricted praise is due their efforts in that direction.

The open court of the library, from whence was banished at one time the offending statue of Bacchanté, was beautiful in a subdued illumination that resembled moonlight, with a group of plants and palms and the fountain that glimmered in the light and an audience seated and standing that overflowed the place.

The conductor of the Footlight orchestra, Mr Charles F. Manney, gave music that soothed the savagest breast from the farthest west and the Harvard Alumni chorus with its beautiful singing quite captured the hearts and minds of everybody from the East and West.

A most cordial and fitting greeting was presented by Governor Channing H. Cox of Massachusetts and seldom has a better library address been heard than that made by Honorable Andrew J. Peters, mayor of the city of Boston, who followed the governor in cordial greetings. If the mayor is able to carry out the ideas he expressed one may expect great things hereafter from Boston.

The address of the evening was made by Rev Alexander Mann, president of the Board of Trustees of the Boston public library, who completed the spell of the occasion and made more than one

listener wish that her lot might be cast in an environment so exhilarating.

The purely literary part of the program was furnished by Robert Frost, Josephine Preston Peabody and the inimitable Joseph C. Lincoln. The first two speakers, while literary favorites of the audience, evidently were largely received on the popularity already gained since it was difficult and at times impossible to hear their reading. Mr Lincoln, with more abandon and with perhaps a better knowledge of his audience from his frequent visits thruout the country, gave an admirable address of wit, wisdom and philosophy that sent the audience home pleased and proud to have had a part in such an evening and with an increased determination to carry back to their home environments something of the spirit of books which was so plainly in evidence in this meeting.

A few wished that the place was larger or the company smaller or that they were of the elect.

#### **Religious Libraries round-table**

The meeting was presided over by Miss Eilma A. Foster of the department of Religion and philosophy of the Cleveland public library.

Dr A. E. Bostwick presented an interesting address on

#### **The church and the library**

The church and the public library have been a little shy of each other. Churches of old had libraries of their own, consisting largely of religious books, a class of works that are bought sparingly in public libraries. It is desirable in the future that the church should depend more on the public library for its reading and that the public library should consider the church more specifically in the purchase of books. It would be well for clergymen and persons interested in religious reading to advise the library from time to time with regard to books that are needed, especially those of denominational value.

In the development of the library as a social institution, it must take into especial account all groups of citizens,—educational, social, industrial and re-

ligious, and the last mentioned type are certainly not the least important.

Mr A. S. Root of Oberlin college told of the very effective and cordial relations existing between the public library, college library and the theological seminary at Oberlin. The theological seminary takes the lead and lends books and supplies whatever information is lacking in the other libraries. In coöperation, they do effective work for the courses of study for the Sunday schools. These are supplemented by books on pedagogy and books on the psychology of childhood and adolescence.

Miss Foster, in discussing the religious material in the public library, urged the securing of competent judgment in the selecting of religious books so that the library may be truly comprehensive and not deficient in an important realm of human interest.

Dr W. I. Shattuck of Boston university called on public libraries to supply the lack that exists in their religious material, particularly that relating to Sunday schools and religious education. This material should be advertised more widely than it is at present.

A very animated and helpful discussion followed by those competent to deal with the subject. The Religious Book Week of 1921 was discussed and further development of this idea for next year was promised. It was the opinion of those present that next year's session should be devoted again to religious books in the public library.

#### **Professional training section**

There was a joint session with the Library schools association and the discussions centered on the

#### **Report of the A. L. A. committee on library training**

A report was made on the comparative value of training for library service given by training classes and by summer schools by a sub-committee, Miss Carrie E. Scott, chairman, and Frank K. Walter. The report gave an interesting study of the scope of the

course, entrance requirements, length of the term, instructors, course of study, practice work, etc.

The following summary of recommendations is made: To balance the entrance examination of the training class, an informational test should be required of summer school students, the grade of which should be counted in on the general average with a personality mark. To balance the general practice work of the training class for the inexperienced librarian in summer school, a month's practice work in a library under the direction of a trained librarian should be required. To balance the longer courses in book selection given by the training class, a year's work of reading made up of standard books selected from the general field of literature should be required of summer school students before a certificate is granted. The student should be examined on this course of reading and the grade counted in on his general average.

The second report was on the Training of catalogers by Miss Margaret Mann, chairman, Miss Emma V. Baldwin and Mr John A. Lowe. The report takes up the selection of students who enter library schools and in this connection makes the following comment: "Library work, combining as it does the demand for business and scholarly attainments, requires a combination of talents which are often difficult to find in one individual. This makes it very necessary for those who are selecting persons to enter the profession to study the demands as well as the individual. The research and bibliographical side of our work should be given the same consideration as is given to the social or public side. It is a fundamental branch and without proficiency in this essential groundwork of our profession the institution will not fulfil its primary purpose. A catalog should not be talked about as a record, too much research work has to go into an effective catalog to give it this term."

In discussing the matter of cataloging instruction, Miss Mann suggests a change of emphasis in teaching cataloging. She says, "There is a tendency in library schools to tie up all questions of the detail of form, accuracy, neatness, narrowness, legibility, style, orthography, punctuation, etc. with the instruction of cataloging. This is probably not the fault of the teacher of cataloging but rather the lack of a well balanced curriculum. These details are not limited to the making of a catalog, they are just as essential in the preparation of any other manuscript or copy. . . . By removing this technique from the cataloging, more time can be given to the larger and broader considerations of the subject. Cataloging should always be given the character of research work."

Criticism also is directed against the attitude of librarians toward catalogers and toward the work of cataloging. Librarians have created a state of mind toward cataloging which is wrong and which has resulted in prejudicing library school students against this branch of the work. Few have realized the fact that catalogers are creating an instrument which is to last as long as the library lasts, without which the reference assistants could not fulfil their part in the service of the library and on which all other branches of library work depend.

The recommendations of the subcommittee are:

1. That a pamphlet be prepared which shall show what cataloging really is; its administrative bearing in the library scheme, its relation to research and its interest as a profession. This pamphlet should omit in as far as possible the mechanical methods of constructing a catalog.

2. That library schools give this pamphlet to prospective students.

3. That library schools consider a change in their curricula with the idea of segregating technique from the course in cataloging and so add interest to the subject.

4. That library schools offer courses in cataloging, one which shall fit students for cataloging in the small libraries, the other to fit students for positions in the large library and that the recommendations from these schools definitely state the students' ability.

5. That librarians study the organization of the library with a view to offering greater opportunities for the cataloger to develop and use the information she has to give. Assistants can derive neither pleasure nor profit from their work without inspiration from the head of the institution.

6. That the library profession inform themselves about the subject of cataloging that they may estimate it from its results rather than from its methods.

The report of this committee includes also the following recommendation:

That library schools adopt a unit of credit similar to the "semester hour" of the standard colleges and universities. There is now no uniformity in evaluating the credit granted for the various courses.

#### "Library workers"

The Library Workers association had a very lively meeting on Friday evening with Miss Catherine Van Dyne in the chair. The vigor of the discussion overtopped its logic or philosophy.

The question of correlating library experience and library courses so that credit might be obtained from the library schools was the subject proposed. Personal likes and dislikes, beliefs and feelings formed the basis of the arguments but thru it all there was the very praiseworthy motive of a desire for recognition from those whose careers bear the stamp of approval of colleges, library schools and institutions of technical instruction.

Much praise was bestowed by many in the audience of the presiding ability shown by Miss Van Dyne as well as her power in bringing to order those who seemed to feel that the forum was a sort of free-for-all for all kinds of discussion.

The Public library of Buffalo, New York, has issued a short reading list of popular books on the United States, covering government, ideals, literature, description, resources, occupation and lives of some interesting Americans, with some 50 titles of historical and characteristic fiction.

**Annual Reports, 1920-21\*****Secretary's report**

The secretary's report opened with a recital of the closing up of the enlarged activities, tho much is made of the fact of the difficulty in doing so owing to an inadequate income and staff.

An additional membership of 850 was recorded between January 1 and June 13. The total membership is 5314.

The employment service has grown and there are more vacancies listed than there are people available. The demand is especially for catalogers and children's librarians.

The committee on recruiting has worked largely thru the Headquarters office.

The Headquarters and *Booklist* staffs have edited and sent thru the press 44 separate publications, also a large amount of advertising matter, printed forms and circulars. About 150,000 copies of various publications have been sent out from the Headquarters office during the year.

The association has been represented at a large number of conventions and meetings but the inadequate funds have retarded the work that might have been done in this line.

The War department has taken over the library service for Germany and that for the army outside of the United States.

A formal release of all books, equipment and responsibility for service has been sent to the American library in Paris. The gift of \$25,000 as an endowment fund accompanied the release.

Nineteen titles comprising 35 volumes for the blind were issued by the A. L. A. during the year.

A new accounting system has been established in the Headquarters office.

The Headquarters office has been active during the year in making connections with other organizations, particularly the National Education Association, national conferences for social service, the Federation of Women's Clubs, country life associations, business

concerns, the Junior Red Cross and other organizations.

A resumé of the library service for hospitals gives an account of a wide area of activity.

The necrology list is unusually long, including 36 members.

**A. L. A. Publishing Board**

The report of the A. L. A. Publishing Board describes the activities of the year, both as to new material and the reprints. Miss Massee, editor of the *Booklist*, speaks with great approval of the coöperation particularly from the Children's Librarians section of the A. L. A. and from individual librarians.

The cost of publications for the year was \$12,393. The sale of publications for the year amounted to \$16,880.

**Book buying**

An extensive report is that from the book buying committee. This is worthy of study by all book buyers.

**Cataloging**

The cataloging committee reports coöperation from the British library association in the proposed rules for the cataloging of music. A voluminous correspondence is still going on in regard to proposed changes in teaching cataloging in the library schools. It is also considering the rules for the cataloging of prints and of incunabula.

**Civil service relations**

The committee on civil service relations submitted a list of questions relating to coöperation to the committee of the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissions which the latter still has under consideration.

**Committee on committees**

The report of the committee on committees, prepared by the chairman, is an unusually interesting document. The proposal of this committee was "to draft a brief statement showing what the work of each committee is and also to make recommendations as to the committees to be created or discontinued."

The committee went very carefully into the whole matter and has evidently made a wide and thoro study of the situ-

\*Printed before A. L. A. meeting.



ation. The conclusions of the committee indicate that there is confusion and lack of consistency and continuity.

While much of it is written in the half jocular and critical language of the committee, there is ample ground for the continuation of a committee to clear away the mistakes and heavy fogs that render indistinguishable the rights and functions of the committees named.

#### Education

The report of the committee on education is one of progress and its recommendations are praiseworthy. The suggestion is made that the efforts should be limited to the library work of and with organized public schools in the largest sense of the term and that the chief duty of the committee should be to act as a clearing-house for the ideas evolved in the several states. While special emphasis should be laid on work in public-supported institutions, private institutions, especially those training teachers, should be included.

#### Federal and state relations

The report of the committee on federal and state relations is one which should be read carefully by all library authorities. It deals especially with the province of such a committee, the Towner education bill, the Bureau of Education statistical report on libraries, the *Congressional Record* and other matters relating to depository libraries, the Post Office Department price ruling, advertising and a number of other important things.

#### Foreign publications

The report of the committee on foreign publications, particularly regarding periodicals received by libraries, is full of information.

The question of reprinting and supplying European material lost on account of the war is presented with some interesting correspondence from business concerns interested and suggestions as to how missing material may be acquired.

#### Obligations to donors

The committee for investigation of the manner in which municipalities are meet-

ing their obligations to donors finds much ground calling for further consideration of a number of important points, particularly the Carnegie Corporation which still needs attention.

#### Reciprocal relations with other organizations

The committee reported the efforts that were made to engage the attention of state and public libraries for conventions of civic, state or national organizations held in their several communities. By this means, the committee thought that a mutual, helpful interest might be created in the idea that library service is not only an integral part of the plan of formal education, but is also a factor in civic responsibilities and advantages. Busy persons or groups are not interested very deeply in what does not concern them. It remains for the library service to hold out to them what it may have that will help.

The following recommendations were offered:

That all local libraries, state, county and municipal, be urged by the A. L. A. to watch out for all meetings in their localities and make connections as far as possible with their officers, putting the resources of their libraries at the service of the organizations represented, giving lists, bulletins, notices and the support of their institutions to all meetings of importance in their localities.

That libraries in those communities where such meetings are held, select and secure such printed matter that is distributed dealing with the subjects discussed at the meetings as will serve or be of interest to their community.

That appointments to this committee be made as soon as possible after the close of the annual meeting.

That the succeeding committee follow up as far as possible the beginning in reciprocal relations made this year.

That the members of the A. L. A. increase their faith in the executive machinery of their association to the extent of responding to communications addressed to them by it, if only to say, "I am not interested in that problem."

The report of the subcommittee on

Library coöperation with Latin America as a part of the report of the committee on library coöperation with other countries, was presented in an unusual and effective form thru the great kindness of Mr Peter H. Goldsmith, a member of the committee and also a director of the Inter-American Division of the American Association of International Conciliation.

A most unusually interesting and fairly complete exhibit of material illustrative of Hispanic-American periodicals was in place in the conference hall, in addition, thru the same kindness of Mr Goldsmith.

The report of the subcommittee was printed separately in a pamphlet showing the work accomplished by existing institutions of the Pan-American Union and also library conditions in the Hispanic-American countries. A considerable amount of very important information concerning sources and character of printed material, important publishing centers of Hispanic-American books, with accurate and interesting descriptions of the material exhibited were included.

Librarians may be urged to file carefully this part of the report as a source of ready information that, owing to the increased interest and the close relations between the North and South American countries, will be of increasing value.

#### **Co-operation with foreign libraries**

The report of the committee on library coöperation with other countries presents some interesting material on collections of library material in the Far East, both as to conditions there and collections of material in American libraries.

#### **National certification**

The report of the committee on national certification and training is one of the most thoro and extensive reports of the year.

The recommendations are that the committee be continued for further consideration in general and especially to seek financial support, to prepare articles of incorporation and to proceed immedi-

ately with the incorporation and organization of a certification board whenever funds are available to carry on its work with a reasonable assurance of permanency.

The principle that it is not only the right but the duty of the A. L. A. to furnish standards of fitness for professional library work carries with it an inevitable corollary that it is the right and duty of the Association to cause to be created and to contribute to the financial support of some properly constituted body for accrediting training institutions which maintain the standards of instruction deemed necessary for efficient and progressive library service.

The step taken by the Association is a notable one but it carries with it the more difficult, practical task of financing and organizing a certification board. Until that body is actually at work little can be done to remedy the undesirable conditions in library work—the most underestimated and underpaid of all public services.

The report of 1921 is a scholarly, fairly thoro examination of the situation and presents a number of suggestions which if properly carried out would mark a far step in advancement in the matter of professional service and emoluments.

#### **Library training**

The report of the committee on library training has sought to correlate and evaluate courses of instruction offered at sources of library training.

There is much constructive criticism offered in the reports of the subcommittees which should receive the careful attention of those interested in the matter of formal library training.

#### **Recruiting**

The report of the committee on recruiting for library service records that an effort should be made to reach high school and college students. An exhibit of recruiting material should be sent on a tour in the same manner as the A. L. A. bookbinding exhibits are now sent, articles should be prepared on library work

for periodicals and magazines, the college papers should be circularized and the subject of recruiting should be placed on the programs of all state and local library associations.

#### **Library Workers association**

The committee on the Library Workers association reported that an organization applying for affiliation with the A. L. A. should be able to demonstrate fully its reason for maintaining existence and recommended that more time be given to the Library Workers association to prove its purpose before affiliation is bestowed.

#### **Work with the blind**

The committee for the work with the blind made a comprehensive report covering the work done in a large area, reporting under states.

#### **Work with the foreign-born**

The report of the committee on work with the foreign-born gives an outline of the sort of information which they sought.

The work of the committee is twofold—first, to assist other librarians and second, to extend knowledge of library opportunities among the foreign-born. The foreign language press was used very largely and with great success.

The annual reports, printed before the meeting of the A. L. A., are in themselves a fair index of the multitude of councillors that are considering the affairs of the American Library Association and only time will tell as to whether Wisdom has its place in their midst.

Only one committee, that on standardization of libraries, reported that the committee has done practically nothing. The general tenor of the reports showed a restraint in the matter of telling, indicative of faithfulness and far-reaching study of the subjects assigned.

The hot weather of June 18 leads one who reads the reports to wonder at the faithfulness of the committee workers and the thought was that sometimes the rank and file of the membership of the A. L. A. does not realize the value of this voluntary, professional service from which all library workers as well as the

public whom they serve receive much profit. But he who recognizes this also receives from it the most.

#### **Book Wagons and Book Lists\***

##### **(Report of the Publicity committee)**

Lots of people are book-hungry. Lots of men and women and boys and girls, and lots of communities, need books, but have no books to use and no recognized way to get them.

The individual book is news nowadays as never before. Newspapers editorialize and featurize books by name. Magazines and newspapers issue special book pages and bookshelf sections devoted to human-interest appraisal of the individual book. Ministers preach about new books. The book slogans, "Buy a book a week," and "Read a book a week," and "Take a book along," are based on this recognized public interest in the single book.

Library circulations and the demands of the public for book service from public libraries are growing faster than library incomes.

What is the American Library Association going to do about this book hunger, this book interest, and this library-income hunger?

Here is the Publicity committee's answer, submitted for your approval:

##### **1. An A. L. A. Library book-wagon**

Let us show how book hunger may be filled, spread the gospel of library service and book distribution, capitalize book interest, and obtain better public support for libraries, by sending out an A. L. A. library book-wagon. Some details:

a) The A. L. A. book-wagon, or car, should be a demonstration reading-room, with shelves, carefully selected books, a reading-table, and chairs.

b) Personnel: 1. An organizer who knows books and library work intimately, has a magnetic personality and natural dramatic powers of leadership, with ability to address and enthrall audiences. 2. Advance and follow-up publicity agent, to encircle the route of the book-wagon with the strategy of a general; stimulating and fostering the results. 3. Assistant organizer. 4. Driver.

c) Auspices: Jointly by the A. L. A. and the state library commission or state department of education. Obtain invitation from a state before entering it, and always link the work with local and state institutions.

\*From the *Daily Bulletin*.

d) Finance: Obtain supplements to the \$5,000 now in the hands of the A. L. A. for book publicity (given for that purpose alone), perhaps from the educational foundations. The initial cost of the car and equipment may be \$5,000, and the expense for operation for six months (May thru October), including salaries, gas, oil, repairs, printing, and postage, may be about \$10,000. Total \$15,000.

e) Territory: Select several book-hungry states where libraries are infrequent, and one or two library-commission states where library incomes need boosting. Try the effect of the Book Wagon on both sets of conditions.

## 2. Human Information about Books

Set a library standard for "juicy book reviews" and booklists by preparing such lists in cooperation with national industrial, educational, economic, and social groups or organizations. The A. L. A. to do the editorial work, and the national group the publication and distribution. This work to be done at A. L. A. headquarters, perhaps largely by the *Booklist* staff, with the cooperation of this committee and others appointed to advise.

Respectfully submitted by The Publicity Committee: W. H. Kerr, A. L. Bailey, Milton J. Ferguson, C. H. Compton, John H. Leete, Ida F. Wright, Charles F. Rush, S. H. Ransch, Paul M. Paine, Mary Frank.

## After Thoughts on A. L. A. Meeting

The revised form of the A. L. A. constitution adopted at Colorado Springs was again adopted at Swampscott. A set of by-laws was adopted also. The revised constitution and the by-laws will be printed and distributed from A. L. A. Headquarters.

The secretary of The Library Association (English) has sent a formal invitation, thru the secretary of the A. L. A., to the members of the American Library Association, to attend the forty-fourth annual meeting of the body at Manchester during the week commencing September 12. Any librarians who expect to be present at the meetings are asked to give notice as soon as possible to Mr L. Stanley Jast, chief librarian, Reference library, Piccadilly, Manchester.

The enlarged service of the headquarters' office this year in the matter of typing, interviews and special information was highly commended on every hand. The sponsors for knowledge in their corner were indefatigable in serving the

constant stream of inquirers that came with anxious brows and departed with smiles of satisfaction and pleasure at what they had received.

In the matter of excursion arrangements, transportation, tickets, etc., Mr Redstone, state librarian of Massachusetts, Mr Dougherty, librarian at Newton and Mr Sherman, librarian at Lynn, left indelible impressions of courtesy and efficiency on the minds of the struggling delegates who were trying to participate, sometimes simultaneously, in the large number of events which had been provided by the local committee for the pleasure and service of the visitors.

An expression of great satisfaction with the quality of service and entertainment offered by the hotels at Swampscott, particularly that of New Ocean House, was heard on every side. Mr Grabow, Mr Kennedy and their assisting corps were constant and effective in their efforts to add to the comfort and delight of their guests. The fact that there was no more congestion or discomfort in the face of such enlarged numbers above what had been expected speaks for the ability and disposition of the management.

Except for the delight which accompanied every hour's experience of the Swampscott meeting, there would be a temptation to say that the feast of good things was too great. One's pleasure in listening to the feast of reason and the flow of soul in one meeting was somewhat disturbed by a feeling of certainty that equally diverting and instructive proceedings were being carried on in another section in another place.

The attendance was so much larger than usual that even the old stand-bys found it hard to adjust themselves to the onward rush of the convention. If the growth of the association is indicated by the size and variety of the meetings held, it would seem the part of wisdom to consider some few changes that might make it more nearly possible to take in and digest the large quantity of good things presented.

Among the notable figures at the Swampscott meeting was Miss Caroline M. Hewins, librarian of the Public library of Hartford. Her interest in library service is as keen as it was more than 30 years ago when she was a strong leader of the newly-developed idea of special library service for children. The scores of Miss Hewins's old friends and many of the younger members of the craft who knew of her and her great work thru reputation, were glad to extend greetings and cordial expressions of pleasure to her at the Swampscott meeting.

A query that went the rounds the entire convention week without finding an answer is more than a decade old and is still unanswered: What town *is it* in Massachusetts that has no library? For a very long time, speakers at library meetings who wish to illustrate the power of the book have stated "there is a library in every town in Massachusetts except one."

A most unusual meeting-place was that furnished by the garage, an enormous building which served admirably as an assembly-hall, seating more than 2000 people. The acoustics of the hall were splendid tho the carrying-power of most of the voices left something to be desired.

The management of the library school dinners left something to be desired tho no criticism could be offered on the arrangements which had been made. Evidently the number of library school alumni is growing too large to take an occasion of personal parade without doing an injustice to those who for any reason are not in the procession. When several library schools are going at once and the irrepressible desire to add to the gayety of the nations is present, he that is not of the throng and even he that is, has a small show of knowing just "where he is at."

The booksellers and publishers made an especially good exhibit at the meeting this year. Sufficient room conveniently located was placed at their disposal

to make the constant visits to the exhibits a pleasure and a delight. The Book Caravan from Boston had a perfect stream of visitors as long as it was open and many a one was heard to exclaim like the ancient mariners in the incident of Columbus and the Egg, "What an easy thing to do! Why hasn't it been done before and why not more of it now?"

The printed material for distribution was exceedingly valuable as library tools, and special commendation is due to the various firms, associations, public bodies and governmental offices which furnished the generous supply of valuable printed information.

One of the pleasant occasions of the meeting was the North Shore Drive. Automobiles and guides were furnished thru the courtesy of the Lynn Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. The start was made from New Ocean House and extended thru Nahant, Marble Head, Salem and adjoining historical points, as well as thru scenes of great natural and developed beauty.

The day spent in visiting the historical points of interest around Boston, Concord, Lexington, Cambridge and other places delighted the souls of nearly 1000 people. Near the close of the day, a charming reception was tendered the company on the campus of Harvard university where a generous welcome was extended by the mayor of Cambridge and a very ample and delightful luncheon was served to those who had been exploring historical points thruout the day. At the close, the company adjourned to the Boston public library where the *chef-d'oeuvre* of the week was held.

The trip to Plymouth will long remain in the minds of those who took it as one of the brightest pages in their memory of New England history. Thru a country made historic by men of measure connected with the early settlements of the country, by shrines of statesmen and scenes of noble actions, the patriotic souls of the visitors were refreshed and kindled anew to the obligation which every American owes to the pioneers of



New England as well as to the rest of the country.

By automobiles, hundreds went thru Boston's environments, thru historical towns and by-ways, down to old Plymouth where the preparations for the celebration of the tercentenary were in full speed. Those who went by automobile returned by boat and all expressed great pleasure in the day's outing.

Mr E. H. Redstone, state librarian of Massachusetts, in extending greetings to the librarians, told the very interesting story of the manuscript of Bradford's Journal. It is a record of the events as they passed under the governor's observation during the days of the Massachusetts colony.

It was lost during the American Revolution but finally came to light in 1855 in the library of the Bishop of London. No one knows how it got there but the story of it since then has been well preserved. Various attempts were made by United States scholars to have it returned to America and finally the late Senator Hoar of Massachusetts obtained the consent and it was turned over to Massachusetts by a special act of Parliament in 1897. It is now in the State library in Boston where it will be preserved to time immemorial.

A greeting from the office of the Czecho Slovak library association at Praha was sent to the A. L. A., signed by D. Josef Volf, the president, and by Lad. T. Zivny, member of the council. The greeting contained congratulations and best wishes for future success and expressed a desire to co-operate in the common work of the free public library movement and general culture in the Middle Europe as the A. L. A. is doing in the United States.

On Saturday evening at Swampscott, four representatives of the publishing profession spoke on different phases of today's tendencies in print. The last of these four, Mr Melcher, performed the very useful function of reviewing the events of the week, calling attention in particular to Miss Parson's beautiful

little talk in the lending section and to the discussion of religious books by Dr Bostwick and Dr Root.

Another reviewer of the program might have included the Saturday evening session and Mr Melcher's own contribution to it as among the week's events. His concluding words were a noble maxim for the whole brotherhood of advocates and distributors of printed matter, a paraphrase upon the prayer of the Pilgrim Robinson: "Evermore let new light break forth from the printed word."

One other thing. Glen Frank told us that the reading public wants serious, simple, self contained and non-censored material. The self-appointed guardians of the nation's virtue and honor have been discharged. Mr Frank thanks God for this, as everyone should who realizes what the word "free" ought to mean in public libraries.

He rejoices that it is now less fashionable than it was three years ago to treat with contempt the principles laid down in that brave essay by John Milton upon the freedom of print.

P. M. P.

#### Sidelights on 1921 Conference

If one thing more than another at the recent Swampscott meeting of the American Library Association and allied organizations, impressed me, it was the earnest seeking for means and methods for coöperative service. Every one seemed imbued with the sense of service as the keynote for libraries, but there seemed to be a healthy effort to coöperate with other institutions, thus endeavoring to do away with unnecessary duplication.

The rugged New England shores, occupied by busy New England cities and villages, joined together with the modern automobile highways and trolleys along which historic places, houses and localities were plainly noted by bronze tablets on rugged boulders, wooden guide boards, or living "sign posts" where necessary, all plainly cataloged, all contributed their share to impress the library pilgrims, especially those from a dis-

tance, of the fact that New England has always been active in those lines where action was necessary.

The afternoon reception at the home of Dr and Mrs Mosher at Marblehead, the afternoon reception and meal at Harvard university, and the evening reception at the Boston public library will not soon be forgotten by those who attended them.

To most of us it was an ideal conference in an ideal locality in the hands of an ideal committee, backed by a sympathetic and interested public.

"Jack" Phelan was one of the favorites on the side line. He was pronounced an enlarged "chip of the old block" by those who met him.

East Cleveland, Ohio, is the city which taxes itself most liberally for the support of its library, according to Mr Ranck's figures, read before the Council. The lowest is the town in Pennsylvania where Mr Ranck has his origin (the name may be found by reference to *Who's Who in America*). East Cleveland's figure is about \$1.50 per capita. The other town provides a little more than five cents. Mr Ranck's point is that library taxation should be based not upon wealth but upon population. He puts it roughly at \$1 per capita per annum for adequate support. The present average the country over is a little more than 50 cents.

The conference secretary, attempting to hasten reluctant ones to the official photograph site, stood in front of the closed dining-room doors and announced authoritatively (but unauthoritatively) that the doors would not open until the photograph was taken. Before he completed the sentence the doors suddenly opened and the hungry ones flocked in.

If all A. L. A. conferences are like the one held at Swampscott, I hope it will be my good fortune to attend many of them. To be sure, the week was a strenuous one, as any conference with a full program is apt to be. The delightful surroundings and the large and enthusiastic crowd added to its pleasure. The interesting papers and the varied program made the whole most

pleasing. Those who attended the meeting in the court yard of the Boston public library will never forget that enchanting evening, I am sure. And last, but not least, the weather added its bit to make it a perfect week.

If first impressions are the lasting ones, to use that old phrase, I sincerely hope that other A. L. A. conferences I expect to attend will be like my first. It will always stand out as one of the most delightful events in my library career.

#### FIRST TIMER.

It is a pleasure to tell you how much the A. L. A. conference meant to me—it was so human and "folksy" as well as stimulating and inspiring. Indeed, it was the "inspirational" addresses which gave me the "things to do" to carry back home: How to reach my neighbor farmer, for example, and how to "sell" the choicest book to my reader by first making it truly my own possession.

And the soul-enriching day ending in the perfect evening at the B. P. L.—that was Boston. Praise could go no higher.

One of the realest satisfactions to this small-city librarian was the talking-over-things with the fellow laborers in her own class. There are so many of us, and so many small-city book-depositaries that must be grown into real libraries of real public service—little toads in little puddles,—which, after all, provides more of an adventure than occupying either horn of the dilemma suggested by the old question *Which would you rather?* Be a little toad in a big puddle or a big toad in a little puddle?

May I add a personal note by speaking of the pleasant glow I felt in shaking hands for the first time with the editor of *Public Libraries* and finding the personality of her letters come true in the substance.

Faithfully yours,

ELIZABETH W. BLACKALL.

Huntington Memorial library,  
Oneonta, N. Y.

#### The Post Conference The journal

Some one complained that the White Mountain party was very unevenly divided, only five men being on the list of members. However, a careful study of

the register will reveal many more of the masculine persuasion, for example there is a *Benjamin*, a *Lewis* [Louis] two *Andrews*, besides some *Roberts* and *Williams*, a *Hurl Burt*, a *Thompson* [Tom's son]. Then we had with us *Wil Cox*, [Andy] Ann D. White, and one *Ladd*. Not such a bad proportion of men after all.

We came to Jackson by [Alice] *Carr* on the railroad and motored to Randolph in *SpofFords* and *StanFords*.

We were delighted with the [Dorothy and Eliza] *Woods* at *Crawfords*, the overhanging *Van Cleefs* on Mount Washington, the granite *Craigs* at Profile Lake, the verdure clad *Rothrocks* of Mossy Glen.

At Echo Lake, we sounded our *Van Horne* and the echo came [Ida] *Wright* to our *Earsom*. We sauntered *Overfield* on *Lilliequist*, and thru the [Katherine] *Greenwood* admiring the [Mittie] *Burch* and its white *Barkhurst*.

The party walked [Mary] *Farr*, and [Callie] *Wieder* [wider], not a [Gretchen] *Coward* among us. But a [Fanny] *Snyder* trick was never perpetrated than when two *Griffins* sprang forth suddenly and poor little *Vera Snook* before *Nannie* could *Warner* that they were as harmless as *Graffens*, or a *Goeppinger* tied to an [Orpha] *Post*.

On days when the [Clara] *Winslow* [wind's low] and the rain falls in [Mary] *Torrance*, we sit on the piazza, watch the *Graceful* and *Edith Hills* come and go in the clouds. The farmer [Louise] *Ladds* bless the rain, as it raises their hopes that soon they can *Mohun* their *Hayward* now so [Bertha] *Brown* with drought.

Some one saw a rabbit which *Haskin* so soft. Another watched the [Caira] *Hawkes* steal chickens on the farm by the old *McMillen*, where the *Stingley* bees make honey, and the *Wil Cox* crow with clear *Gugle* sound.

One night, Mr Goddard read us the *Faxon* the [Ann] *White* Mountain history, till we were glad we were not born in *Frantz* or any of the other *Oldham* countries.

And on July 5, we parted, homeward bound, remembering that at Randolph our [Lula] *Westcoat* was not needed and our heavy *Flanagans* were *de trop*.

Still we shall remember the trip with pleasure in the old *Laing* syne when *Thayer* are memories of *Campbell*, and trail. F. W. F.

#### In the Mountains

Many times during our wanderings in New Hampshire I was reminded of that pathetic little ballad, "A picture no artist can paint." It is a very beautiful little thing, particularly so when set to music. It might have been something like this:

Picture of an old New England town.

Picture of the crowd hangin' around.

Picture of the baggage all battered and bent.

It may have been tagged but it always went.

That's a picture no artist can paint.

And so on—

The start of the post-conference trip was splendid—two cars all to ourselves on the train leaving Boston for the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Tuesday morning, June 28. The day's journey was pleasant but would have been uneventful had it not been for the box luncheon (and a very good one, too) with hot coffee which was put on at Sanbornville. There may be *some* members of the A. L. A. who think it easy to navigate on a fast moving train and at the same time to transport safely a given portion of hot, very hot coffee in a paper cup—there may be those who believe this but—they were not with us. It was an heroic act and the agonized and determined expression on the faces of those who braved the swaying of the train in an attempt to save others, proved the difficulty of the feat.

The ride of five miles from Glen-Jackson station to the Eagle Mountain house was made in big comfortable cars—the kind to which we had become accustomed at Swampscott—but the joy of the entire trip was experienced in the greeting of our first host, the genial Pa Gale. We were not supposed to have heard it. Only five little words but they

lightened the hearts of most of us. Five well-chosen words addressed to Mr Faxon. To be sure, they were uttered when our tresses were still under cover and in an unguarded moment of surprise. Hear them—"Why, Fred, they are *young*." God bless Pa Gale!

Jackson is on the south side of the mountains in that region and commands a wonderful view of Carter Notch, "Doublehead" Jackson and other mountains. Our hotel, three quarters of a mile away from the village and about 250 feet higher in altitude, stands on the side of Jackson Mountain overlooking the beautiful Wildcat Valley.

The trip by auto to Crawford Notch planned for Wednesday was postponed a day because the clouds were low on the mountains and the view thus destroyed. This gave an opportunity to see Jackson Falls and many other beautiful short walks and easy climbs in the immediate vicinity. Thursday was a busy day. More tramps in the morning, a good luncheon and then the first of our long mountain rides. Leaving in the early afternoon, we motored thru upper Bartlett, in the winding valley of the Saco river to its source, a little lake in Crawford Notch. The beautiful winding mountain road crosses and recrosses the river many times and passes the site of the old Willey farm, where more than a hundred years ago an entire family and all other living things on the farm were buried alive by a land slide. Of the buildings, one only was left unharmed and that was burned later.

The "Notch" is very narrow and picturesque with the river and road between the towering mountains. We found the Crawford House a comfortable resting place surrounded by a circle of mountain peaks. There most of the party enjoyed the hospitality of blazing open fires until it was time to start back to Jackson. A drizzling rain prevented the climb up Mt. Willard. We got back in time for dinner, tired but happy.

About this time Miss Ahern, who had previously been unanimously elected "Dean" of the party, had the clever idea of personally introducing each one of us.

Around the huge open fire the evening was so spent. Each one responded when called by name with a toot of his own horn and any library gossip of interest to all, especially tales of romances which had directly resulted from former post-conference trips. These stories would make splendid advertising material another year.

Girls there were in great numbers. They seemed already "wise" to the fact that Cupid sometimes goes along. It would be a hard man to please who could not find a maiden to his liking in a throng such as this. The proportions were bad, however. In the party of ninety-six we could boast of only five men. The sixth man lost his courage at the last minute and only his name appeared. Too bad. He is unmarried too. His absence threw a great responsibility upon the shoulders of the one remaining eligible bachelor from the Middle-West. His popularity knew no bounds. Always the guest of honor on all the exclusive parties—bacon bats, marshmallow roasts and private suppers. The willingness of many was evident. Poor man. It may be necessary for him to seek a library in Utah. The strides of science are great, nevertheless, as we were to be enlightened by this same person who explained that in one library where three assistants had succumbed in rapid succession, a cure for this malady had been effected by a process of fumigation. I for one believe his story. The proof was before us. He seems immune.

Altho only five in number, the men of the party were well selected and each filled his place with grace and efficiency (dreadful word!). There was the genial chief porter, with his four assistants; the well informed man from Cooks whom we all faithfully followed; the master of ceremonies, with an unlimited supply of energy and good nature; the reader and mountain guide; and the foreign representative who never would ride. The women, with the exception of our dean, just made up the motley crowd.

On Friday morning, July first, we left behind us the Jackson valley and motored 20 miles or more thru Pinkham Notch, where in the beauty of the clear mountain atmosphere we got our first good view of Mt. Washington in all its grandeur. Both Glenellis Falls and Crystal Cascade were visited on our way to Randolph and we reached the Mt. Crescent House, nearly 2000 feet above sea-level, in time for luncheon. There we found ourselves on the north side of the White Mt. region, in full view of the Presidential range. The views in every direction are unsurpassed. Over 40 peaks are visible.

Early the next morning we started on an all-day motor trip. This was a glorious day. The sun was bright, the roads good, the cars comfortable and the scenery very beautiful. We covered Jefferson to the west of the big mountains; Bretton Woods with its wonderful panorama; Profile Lake and the "Old Man of the Mountains." Echo Lake, which we came upon suddenly, is a most picturesque spot, reminding many of us of Lake Louise. The Flume of Franconia and the Pool, left for the last, were rather strenuous climbs but certainly the finest bits of scenery of the entire region. Near here our camp lunch was eaten. It was on this ride that the site of another mountain slide was pointed out to us. This called forth the sage remark from a western (not Toledo) librarian to the effect that mountains in the east are not very well put together.

It would be a most negligent driver who would fail to see the anxious face of the wooden darkey sentinel whose arms held up the scarlet sign of DANGER where the road menders were at work.

The remaining two days of this delightful outing were devoted to the many climbs in and near Randolph.

"On Sunday, with the idea, "the woods were God's first temples," a large number went afoot and in cars to the distant mountains. A large number rested and wished distances were not so great. On the national birthday, the crowd again

went out to see the beauty and peace of the mountain ways despite the great heat which enveloped the scenery. At night, a celebration was put on by the neighborhood resorters and natives, when fireworks, music by a G. A. R. bugle-corps and "America" sung by the crowd gave pleasure to everyone.

At five o'clock on Tuesday morning, the return to base began and the crowd finally melted away in Boston under a very warm reception. A. J. P.

### Post Conference Impressions

Some of us who attended our first A. L. A. 21 years ago in Montreal, too early to wear the red ribbon, feel as if we ought to have a green ribbon for our first post-conference in 1921. We realized what green mountaineers we were when we learned the new standard of "one mile per hour"—up hill. In the Congressional library with its 44 miles of shelving, we always walked four miles an hour and knew no other standard.

Some of us were so green, too, that nobody believed we had served 25 years' apprenticeship in libraries nor 20 years' housekeeping with a library girl, nor were watching a five-foot-ten freshman wing his way thru college. But who cares? We listened to the birds in Wild Cat Valley, picked and coned the flowers on Eagle Mountain, and watched the ichneumon fly deposit her eggs in the decaying maple at Jackson Falls, and life began anew; for the world is full of a number of things we never knew before.

How well the trip was planned! With what strategic wisdom our manager selected our two main bases in the very center of things so that short walks on foot revealed to us the most characteristic beauties of the White Hills; and what wonderful auto-trips we had to Crawford Notch and the Willey House, and to the Old Man of the Mountains in Franconia and the Flume beyond. Expressions like this were on every lip.

Some few of the greener and fresher spirits ventured to explore the torridity



of the Ice Gulch or the shaded sweltering Ingles of the Valley Way up to Madison Hut, and demonstrated the Graces of a down-hill hop skip and jump over the Knife-Edge and thru the never-ending woods of the lower slopes of Mt. Adams.

WM. D. GODDARD.

Deborah Cook Sayles public library,  
Pawtucket, R. I.

It has been a great privilege to spend a holiday among the New Hampshire mountains with such a large number of American librarians. It has really been delightful. The trips were well planned and carried out; the points of interest visited were well worth seeing—the "Flume" and "The old man of the mountains" especially remain on the memory as "grand."

As for the Librarians! They are well conducted, good humoured, cultured folk, worthy of their high calling, whose pleasant companionship contributed in no small measure to the enjoyment of the holiday.

JOHN JONES.

(Medical Missionary from China.)

There was one hour of which it is mine to tell. On the plea of weariness, I remained at Mt. Madison while the others took another climb. After I had watched them climb slowly, slowly into the sky, I took my blanket and followed the cairns to the Parapet.

The Parapet is a huge ledge which drops sheer for miles. The winds raced by with the sound of rushing waters. On all sides the mountains stood in ravishing beauty, like Turkish maidens, I thought, veiled in grey chiffon. Quietly a cloud rolled past within a rod of where I sat. Below, miles and miles of balsams pointed blue, green fingers toward me and gradually, I began to hear, above the roar of the winds, the song of birds. Only their highest notes reached the mountain top—an indescribable beauty as if the chasm were filled with myriads of tone-fireflies.

By degrees, the stillness of the mountain came upon me. The valley seemed deeper than the farthest mountain and I began to feel Nature in her majestic strength.

For this I had feigned weariness, but I had not dreamed of the power of such quiet. Miles from a human voice, I longed to shout and dared not. With parted lips, I listened to a scratching below the cliff, a rabbit? bear? rattlesnake?

Then I heard a signal from the others, and hastily unrolling my blanket, scrambled over the rocks, we were above the timber line, to the others on their way down.

E. T.

### Special Libraries Association

The twelfth annual meeting of the Special Libraries association was held, June 21-24.

The first session took place on Tuesday afternoon with the President, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., in the chair. The association has increased its membership by nearly 200 during the past year, due largely to the efforts of the Membership committee, lead by Miss Mary DeJ. Cox as chairman. *Special Libraries* has had four editors during the year. Miss Adelaide R. Hasse, who assumed the permanent editorship in November reported that she was receiving good co-operation from the members but needed still more. Good progress has been made towards a better internal organization and external relationships.

The speakers included Dr Edwin E. Slossom of the National Research Council, Leroy D. Peavey of Babson's Statistical Organization, Daniel M. Handy of the Insurance library association of Boston, Dr E. S. Crum of the Prudential Insurance Company, Charles C. Parlin of the Curtis Publishing Company, H. V. Coes of Ford, Bacon and Davis, J. George Frederick of the Business Course, Frank E. Barrows of Pennie, Davis, Marvin and Edmonds and Mrs Jeanne B. Foster of Kuhn, Loeb and Company.

Group meetings were lead by Lewis A. Armistead on "Obtaining information," George W. Lee on "Organizing data," and O. Louise Evans on "Selling library service." A meeting at which representatives of various local special library and filing associations spoke was also held.

A joint meeting with the A. L. A. held Friday morning aroused much enthusiasm and discussion.

The general tone of the meeting was one of good spirit and fellowship, of open-mindedness and great sociability. Particular emphasis was laid by the speakers, as a whole, on accurate information of the right kind for the business man.

The new officers for the coming year are: President, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., assistant-manager, Department of Civic Development, Chamber of Commerce of the U. S., Washington, D. C. (re-elected); first vice-president, Helen E. Hemphill, librarian, Western Electric Company, New York (re-elected); second vice-president, Rebecca B. Rankin, librarian, Municipal reference library, New York; secretary-treasurer, O. Louise Evans, librarian, Bureau of Public Roads, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; assistant-secretary-treasurer, Alfred B. Lindsey, assistant-librarian, Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington, D. C., and member of the Executive Board for one year, Mrs Bertha Hartzell, Social Service library, Boston. Edward H. Redstone, state librarian of Massachusetts, remains on the Executive Board.

### The Bibliographic society of America

There was a meeting of the Bibliographic society on Wednesday afternoon. The subject for discussion was the Use of reproducing processes in bibliographical work. A paper by Dr L. Bendikson on the photostat gave a careful account of the technic of the apparatus with some illustrations of its use.

A symposium on the use that had been made of the photostat in bibliographical and research work was made by George Watson Cole. He summed up the work and results in different institutions, among which were Harvard University library, Boston public library, Connecticut state library, Yale University library, Engineering Societies library, New York state library, New York public library, New York Historical society, Cornell University library, Princeton University library, the libraries of the Universities of Minnesota and Michigan, the Library of Congress and the Hispanic society.

The Massachusetts secretary of state uses the photostat for copying many legal papers. Columbia university has made considerable use of it in copying Chinese books.

Mr Wilberforce Eames reported in detail on large enterprises and on costs.

The Photostat as a means of distributing copies of unique or very rare works was presented in a paper by Dr W. C. Ford who gave details of the experiences of the Massachusetts Historical society in distributing copies of early newspapers and colonial documents to libraries.

The Value of the photostat in the Huntington library was presented by C. M. Cate. He referred especially to the detecting of bibliographical differences in rarities by means of reproduction of copies belonging to widely separated parts of the country.

In the discussion, Dr Steiner mentioned the impossibility of reproducing mended copies where the text has been covered with silk. The value of photostat copies in courts of law is lessened on account of the possibility of altering or faking photostat copies.

In answer to the question as to the permanency of reproduced copies, Mr Meyer of the Library of Congress said that paper chemically treated would not have the life of other paper but that so far the results had not proved unsatisfactory.

Mr Winship of Harvard urged that since it is impossible, on account of cost and storage, for libraries to secure all the reproduction projects proposed, a central clearing-house be established where negatives could be kept, and where upon demand by scholars and investigators, a library could borrow negatives or secure positives.

There seemed to be a difference of opinion as to whether reproduced items

Much was made of a new kind of paper, much quicker and cheaper and not needing chemical treatment for development.

The following officers were elected: President, W. W. Bishop; first vice-president, H. H. B. Meyer; second vice-president, Victor H. Paltsits; secretary, A. H. Shearer; treasurer, F. W. Faxon; councillor, E. C. Richardson.

It was announced that the publications which had been held up for so long would probably be published shortly.

### Library Meetings

**California**—The Pasadena library club held its regular annual meeting, May 22. Over 50 persons were present from the various libraries in the vicinity. The following officers were re-elected for the coming year: President, Miss Helen E. Haines; secretary-treasurer, Miss Frances H. Spining.

The subject for the afternoon was "Aspects of bookbuying from trade and library standpoint." George F. Howell, formerly of the Vroman Company, gave an interesting talk on "Bookbuying from the book-trade standpoint." Albert C. Reade, principal of the order department of the Los Angeles public library, spoke in a very entertaining manner on "Bookbuying for the public library." Other aspects of bookbuying were given by the following: Miss Littlejohn of the Pasadena public library, spoke on "Bargain hunting for the public library." "The rare-book market" was the subject of the very fine paper given by Mr Bliss of the Henry E. Huntington library. Miss Betty Lord of the California Citrus association told how free pamphlet material may be obtained.

FRANCES H. SPINING.

The annual meeting of the San Antonio library club of Southern California was held in Claremont, May 28, with Mrs L. O. Robinson, the custodian of the Claremont branch of the Los Angeles county library.

The following officers were elected: President, Miss K. A. Monroe, librarian of the Ontario public library; secretary, Mrs Isabel N. Neales, Chaffney-Union library.

After the business meeting, Miss Vogelsohn of the Los Angeles county library, gave a most interesting talk on the ideals and accomplishments of the California county library system, dwelling particularly on the Los Angeles system with which she was most familiar. This service even in as progressive a county as Los Angeles often means carrying books by pack mules over wretched roads. An interesting discussion of county methods, especially in relation to

work with the schools, followed Miss Vogelsohn's talk.

MARION J. EWING.

**Iowa**—The second annual conference for library workers at the State university of Iowa was held on July 7-8. This conference is arranged annually thru the coöperation of the Extension division of the University and the Summer school for library training.

In addition to the training class, which numbers 37 students, there were in attendance a goodly number of librarians from various parts of the state.

The programs of these annual conferences are planned to contribute inspiration and present the aims and ideals of library work. Timely book talks by experts are also included. Prominent library workers of the country and members of the university faculty co-operated in making the recent conference a most successful undertaking. Among the speakers were the following: Carl H. Milam, secretary of A. L. A.; Louise Cottrell, social worker; Willis H. Kerr, Normal school librarian; E. C. Mabie, professor, public speaking; Edwin F. Piper, professor of English; Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES; Nellie Williams, secretary of Nebraska commission; Harry G. Plum, professor of history; Ellen F. Chamberlayne, high-school librarian, (N.Y.); Hon J. J. Tigert, U. S. commissioner of education.

**Massachusetts**—The Bay Path library club held its annual meeting at Holden public library, June 9. The morning was devoted to a discussion and demonstration of a plan for an inexpensive binding for magazines.

The following officers were elected: President, Miss Emily Haynes; honorary vice-president, Mr Albert Hinds; secretary, Miss Mabel E. Knowlton; treasurer, Mrs Grace M. Whittemore.

In the afternoon, an informing and entertaining talk illustrated with victrola records was given by Miss Grace Barr of Boston on How history has influenced the music of this country.

Miss Wheeler conducted a session of book reviews which was most instructive and entertaining.

MABEL E. KNOWLTON.

**Michigan.**—The ninth annual meeting of the Upper Peninsula library association was held in Iron Mountain, June 2-3, 1921. The first session of the round-table took place in the Pine Grove country club, Thursday noon, where the visiting librarians were very cordially welcomed by Mrs Lenore C. Carpenter, librarian of the Iron Mountain public library. Following this, a delightful luncheon was served by the library staff members, thru the courtesy of the school board, after which a business meeting was held and the regular papers read, lively discussions following each. The subjects discussed were: How to get the books in the library across to the public, Mrs Nellie E. Brayton, of Ishpeming, and A year's experience with the county work undertaken in Menominee, by Miss Helena LeFevre, of the Menominee public library.

In the evening, the meeting was opened in the council rooms of the city hall with a talk by Miss Walton, librarian of the State Normal college of Ypsilanti. She spoke on "English schools and schoolmasters" and gave a very enjoyable address.

The meeting, Friday morning, convened at the Public library and was devoted to a short business meeting and to the reading of several papers, the subjects of which were: The best of the recent popular novels, by Miss Florence Kronlund of Ironwood; Book selection and the business side of book buying, by Miss Marion Dahl of Escanaba and Library budgets, by Miss G. M. Andrews of Marinette.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Helena S. LeFevre, Menominee; vice-president, Mrs Frances H. Scott, Houghton; secretary-treasurer, Gertrude Kelly, Hancock.

At this, one of the most interesting round-tables the association has ever

had, there were 20 librarians from all parts of the Upper Peninsula.

GERTRUDE KELLY,  
Secretary.

**New York.**—The New York library club celebrated its thirty-sixth anniversary, May 12, with a meeting at the Grolier club. Addresses were made by Henry W. Kent, Thomas L. Cleland and William M. Ivins, Jr. The following officers were elected: President, Harrison W. Craver; vice-president, Ernestine Rose; secretary, Marion F. Schwab; treasurer, Paul Rice; ex officio member, Edward F. Stevens.

**Pennsylvania.**—The Spring meeting of the Pennsylvania library club was held on Monday evening, May 23, 1921, at the library of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Dr Frank Grant Lewis presided. The business of the meeting was transacted. The election of officers for the coming year, 1921-22, resulted as follows: President, Asa Don Dickinson; first vice-president, A. S. W. Rosenbach, Ph.D.; second vice-president, Elizabeth V. Kelly; secretary, Martha Lee Coplin; treasurer, Bertha Seidl Wetzell.

The first speaker of the evening was Dr Morris Jastrow, Jr., whose address, "Sketch of the life and services of the late Dr J. G. Rosengarten," was exceedingly interesting. Requests for his help always met with sympathy and encouragement. The intimate relations existing between the Board of Trustees and the faculty of the university were due to Dr Rosengarten's tact and ability to draw men together in a common interest. In 1907, the University of Pennsylvania conferred upon this distinguished alumnus the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr Rosengarten wrote for many scientific societies. His contributions to American history and social science are valuable, and his collection of books and materials for his writings show great care in selection. He kept up an intimate association with great and prominent men of all countries, so that his influence was far reaching. At the time of

his death, he was the senior member of the American bar. The Free library of Philadelphia owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dr Rosengarten. The \$1,500,000 given by Andrew Carnegie for the branches of the Free library, was procured thru the aid of Dr Rosengarten, who enlisted also the aid of prominent men in procuring sites for the branch buildings. His gifts of books have been numerous and valuable.

In closing his address, Dr Jastrow laid stress on the happy life that Dr Rosengarten had led, happy because of the power he had been in bringing happiness into the lives of others.

The second speaker of the evening was Asa Don Dickinson, librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, and the new president of the Pennsylvania library club. Mr Dickinson's illustrated address, "Franklin's life in title pages as illustrated by the Curtis collection of Franklin imprints," was thoroly delightful and instructive. The Curtis Publishing Company has recently presented the University of Pennsylvania a treasure of incalculable value in the gift of a priceless collection of Franklin relics, the best collection of such in existence. Franklin used books constantly, Mr Dickson told the club, and contrived by hook or crook to get access to the books he craved. Pictures of the title pages of many of the rare and interesting books printed and collected by Franklin were thrown on the screen. A copy of the famous newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, founded by Franklin, was shown. This paper was the ancestor of the present *Saturday Evening Post*, and became the longest-lived newspaper in the United States. The University library has now 65 varieties of the *Poor Richard's Almanac*, all ever published but four; and three *Country Almanacs* as well as a file of pocket almanacs, all published by Franklin. The first novel published in America, "Pamela", is in this Franklin collection, also the first cartoon, published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, in 1749, and the first attempt to illustrate a newspaper, being a map of the siege of Louisburg,

very crude, but important because of its historical significance. A picture of one of the pages of Franklin's attempt to abridge the Book of Common Prayer was shown. The guests were invited to inspect the relics, and see the library.

This was one of the most interesting evenings the club has ever had. There were 125 persons present. At the close of Mr Dickinson's address, the club, at Dr Lewis's suggestion, showed its appreciation, by rising.

MARTHA LEE COPLIN,  
Secretary.

**Seattle, Wash.**—A particularly interesting meeting of the Puget Sound library club was held on May 20, 1921, at the University branch of the Seattle public library. The session opened with an address by Mr Henry R. King, a member of the Seattle School Board, on the public library as a continuation school, followed by a discussion of the subject. The community library by Miss Mary N. Baker, president of the club, including lively discussion on the subject of Advisory Boards as first aid to community libraries, followed; after which Dr V. O. Chittick, professor of modern literature at the University of Washington, gave a talk which he called, "William Morris moves to Main Street," and which his audience agreed was a most diverting and illuminating exposition of Sinclair Lewis' much discussed book. The meeting concluded with the election of Miss Annabel Porter, children's librarian of the Tacoma Public Library, to the office of President of the club for the ensuing year.

**Tennessee**—The Tennessee library association held its annual meeting, May 6 and 7, in the Lawson McGhee library, Knoxville. This is the first time that a two-day session has been held but the interest shown in the entire program proves that one day is all too short for the discussion of library problems and the custom has probably been permanently established. Twenty-eight librarians from over the state were present and much enthusiasm was manifested.

By sudden and serious illness in his



family, the president, Charles H. Stone, of Peabody college, Nashville, was prevented from attending and Charles D. Johnston of Cossitt library, Memphis, presided. A business session was followed by the welcoming address of General Tyson, who graciously extended the hospitality of the library and of the city to the visiting librarians. Mr Johnston read the president's address, "Trends in library work today," a paper which briefly outlined the purposes of the meeting. "Our new county library law" was then discussed by John Trotwood Moore, state librarian.

As this new law was one of the most important topics of the meeting, the afternoon session was opened with a discussion on "Putting our new law into practice" by Mrs Pearl Williams Kelley, the recently appointed assistant director of County library work. Mrs Kelley gave a very practical talk, explaining just what was to be done in getting the law into operation. Miss Lucy E. Fay, of the University of Tennessee library, gave an interesting talk on "Recruiting for library service," stressing the importance of the work and suggesting methods of procedure. The question of "Financing the small public library" was ably handled by Miss Charlotte Templeton, the secretary of the Georgia library commission. There followed a very profitable discussion of the financial problems of the small library.

A delightful dinner was tendered the librarians by the trustees of the Lawson McGhee library. An interesting feature of the dinner was the round-table on "The recent book which has interested me most." Miss Ruth M. Barker of the Cossitt library, Memphis, acted as chairman and conducted this in a most delightful manner.

The Saturday morning session was held at the University of Tennessee. Dean Hoskins welcomed the librarians on behalf of the university. The program for the morning consisted of four round-table discussions on live problems in library work. "Red tape vs. short cuts" was led by Miss Ruth M. Barker; "Popularizing government documents"

by Miss Nora Crimmins of the Chattanooga public library; "Making pamphlet material available" by Miss Elizabeth Moreland of the University of Tennessee and "Coöperation between the public library and the school" by Miss Etta L. Matthews, librarian of the Knoxville high-school. Each of these subjects was followed by discussion.

A very enjoyable luncheon was given by the Home Economics department of the University of Tennessee.

The afternoon session was devoted to departmental meetings. The college librarians met together with Miss Dora L. Sanders of Vanderbilt university as chairman and held a most profitable session. The meeting of the large public libraries was presided over by Miss Felicia G. Porter of Nashville Carnegie library and that for small public libraries by Miss Templeton. The hour given over to these proved all too brief for the many questions to be discussed.

A final business session was held at which the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Miss Ruth M. Barker, Cossitt library, Memphis; first vice-president, Miss Nora L. Crimmins, Chattanooga public library; second vice-president, Miss Emma Watts, director of library extension, State department of education; secretary and treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Moreland, University of Tennessee.

A very enjoyable automobile ride over Knoxville and the surrounding country was a fitting close for so pleasant a meeting. The association feels deeply indebted to Miss Mary U. Rothrock of the Lawson McGhee library, Knoxville, for the delightful time which she as hostess provided.

CHARLES H. STONE,  
President,  
DORA L. SANDERS,  
Secretary.

#### Coming meetings

The annual meeting of the New York library association will be held at Ithaca, New York, September 12-17.

The Indiana library association will hold its annual meeting at Muncie, October 26-28.

### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library, Atlanta

The closing exercises of the Library school were held on May 28 in the class-room. Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St Louis public library, gave the address on "Libraries and national service." W. W. Orr, president of the Board of Trustees, delivered the certificates.

Dr C. C. Williamson spent May 9 and 10 at the school in consultation with the faculty in connection with his study of library training for the Carnegie Corporation.

The entrance examination was held on June 4 with twice the number of applicants that the school has had for the past several years.

A number of changes have been made in the organization of the faculty for the year 1921-22. Susie Lee Crumley, who has held the position of assistant librarian of the library and chief instructor in the library school, has given up her connection with the library and will become principal of the library school, devoting her entire time to the school.

Jessie Hopkins has been appointed assistant librarian in Miss Crumley's place. Miss Hopkins will also carry a course in the library school. Miss Hopkins is a graduate of the Atlanta library school, '06, and of the New York Public library school, '16. She was for 10 years librarian of the Public library at Paducah, Kentucky, was in charge of Tompkins Square branch of the New York public library for a year, was connected with the book selection department of the A. L. A. New York office and for the past year has been engaged in doing bibliographical work for the American Institute of Accountants.

Ellen Johnson, A. B. University of Tennessee and B. L. S. of the New York State library school, '21, has been appointed head of the children's department and instructor in children's work in the library school.

Carrie Williams who has served for two years as an instructor in the library

school has been transferred to the reference department of the library.

Evie Allison, Atlanta, '19, has become head of the catalog department of the Olivia Raney library, Raleigh, N. C.

Louise Bercaw, Atlanta, '16, has resigned her position in the Savannah public library to return to her former position of librarian of the Carnegie library, Cordele, Georgia.

Mary Vick Burney, Atlanta, '20, has resigned her position of librarian of the State normal school, Fredericksburg, Va., to become head of the reference department of the Public library, Dallas, Texas.

Clara Crawford, Atlanta, '18, has resigned as librarian of the Burlington public library to become assistant librarian of the Public library, Durham, N. C.

Harriet Hendrickson, Atlanta, '19, has resigned as librarian of Piedmont college, Demorest, Ga., to become librarian of the Anne Wallace branch, Atlanta.

Margaret Jemison, Atlanta, '14, has resigned as head of the reference department of the Dallas public library to become librarian of the Emory University library, Atlanta.

Nina Morgan, Atlanta, '21, has been appointed librarian of the State normal school for women, Fredericksburg, Va.

Louise Roberts, Atlanta, '15, has been appointed branch librarian, Birmingham, Alabama.

Vera Walton, Atlanta, '21, has been appointed assistant in the Savannah public library.

Beverly Wheatcroft, Atlanta, has been appointed assistant on the Kentucky library commission.

TOMMIE DORA BARKER,  
Director.

#### Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Recent lecturers have been Dr Louis L. Thurstone and Dr Edward K. Strong of the department of applied psychology, Carnegie Institute of Technology, and Mrs Eleanor E. Ledbetter, librarian of the Broadway Branch, Cleveland, and chairman of the A. L. A. committee on work with the foreign-born.

The graduation exercises were held on Saturday, June 18. Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, gave the commencement address.

Marv Banes, '14, has accepted the position of high-school librarian, Hughes high school, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Alice P. Burgess, '14, has accepted the position of children's librarian at Madison, Wisconsin.

Emily W. Ehrhart, '19, was married, May 28, to Charles Stahr Hamm.

Lucy T. Fuller, '16, has been appointed librarian of the Harris County library, Houston, Texas.

Avis F. Meigs, '16, graduated from the University of Chicago on June 14. September 1, she will join the children's department of the Detroit public library.

Ruth M. Paxson, '16, has been appointed head of the school department, Library Association of Portland, Oregon.

NINA C. BROTHERTON,  
Principal.

#### University of Illinois

A course in Books for children was given during April and May. Miss Elizabeth Knapp, chief of the children's department of the Detroit public library, lectured during the first three weeks on Books for younger children and Miss Martha Wilson, librarian of the Lincoln library, Springfield, completed the course by a series of lectures on Libraries and schools, covering two weeks. During Miss Knapp's engagement she gave also a public lecture which a number of parents of young children attended, on the selection of children's books for the home.

On Friday, April 15, the students, faculty and staff members had the pleasure of listening to an impromptu talk by Mr F. W. Faxon of Boston on the Selecting and collecting of periodicals. Mr Faxon's visit was somewhat unexpected and all the more interesting.

The last regular meeting of the Library club was held on Thursday evening, April 21, at which Dr Dietz of the History department, gave a very interesting series of personal reminiscences in the use of some of the great European libraries, particularly the Bodleian, British Museum and Royal Prussian of Berlin. Dr Bostwick arrived in time to be the guest of the club. The course given by visiting lecturers was completed this year by a series of lectures by Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, of the St. Louis public library. Dr Bostwick lectured on Friday morning, April 22, on the Work and development of the St. Louis public library, illustrated by lantern slides. In the afternoon, Dr Bostwick lectured before a miscellaneous

audience on Confessions of an editor. On Saturday morning, Dr Bostwick took for his subject Coöperation of the library with social agencies.

The following members of the senior class will receive the degree of Bachelor of Library Science at the fiftieth commencement of the University of Illinois on June 15:

Effie Gale Abraham, A.B., Miami university; Esther Lou Bergen, A.B., James Millikin university; Bertha Florence Blackburn, A.B., Illinois college; Ethyl May Blum, A.B., University of Michigan; James Bennett Childs, A. B., University of Illinois; Ruth Eugenia Sankey, A.B., University of Kansas; Arthur Ray Curry, A.B., University of Texas.

Final honors in scholarship were accorded by both the faculty and Senate to James B. Childs of the senior class.

FRANCES SIMPSON,  
Assistant director.

#### Los Angeles

The students are taking an active part in the campaign for a new library building. They have written newspaper articles, devised slogans for use in theater programs and on billboards, lettered posters, acted in the library motion pictures and they will do personal work at the polls.

The work at the end of the school year was brightened by several festivities: a tea given by Mrs Wells Smith, director of the Library school, a costume party and a picnic at the Arroyo Seco branch, given by the branch assistants. After the picnic, the students were taken thru the Munk library and the Southwest museum by Dr J. A. Comstock.

Margaret Richter, '19, gave an interesting talk to the school on her experiences as a cataloger in the Cornell University library.

Margaret Newman, '17, has been appointed county librarian at Hilo, Hawaii.

Isabelle Park, '18, was married to Ralph Emerson DeWitt at Modesto, April 20.

MARION HORTON,  
Principal.

#### New York public library

The tenth annual commencement was held on the morning of Friday, June 10. Mr William Sloane, secretary of the Board of Trustees of the

New York public library, presided and an address entitled *Inspirations of Librarianship* was given by Mr R. R. Bowker. The candidates for the diplomas were five in number, two of whom had done their junior work at the library school of the New York public library, two at the University of Washington library school and one at Drexel Institute library school. There were 21 candidates for the certificate, representing various cities of the United States and Canada.

The commencement exercises this year are in the nature of a tenth anniversary of the school's founding. Various speakers at the commencement exercises and at the Alumni dinner dwelt upon the accomplishments of the school in its 10 years of existence. Emphasis was laid upon the fact that beside making a place for itself professionally in the United States, its influence has reached foreign countries. The school is fortunate also in having built up a large and loyal body of alumni, which has grown in helpfulness as its numbers have increased, and which has been especially active in the year just closing. The Alumni have recently gathered extensive data regarding living and library conditions in various parts of the county and have placed it at the disposal of the school; they have been adding materially to the Mary Wright Plumer Memorial loan fund; they have started a new fund in memory of Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh, the disposal of which has not been fully settled; and they have been supporting lately the efforts of the A. L. A. committee on Recruiting for Library Service. This activity has involved much committee work and the editing and publishing of a printed news letter.

The school greatly regrets the impending loss, thru resignation, of Miss Mary Hubbard, who for two years has carried the instruction in cataloging and subject headings and some minor subjects, and who intends at the close of the present year to give up teaching and return to reference work. Miss

Hubbard has contributed much to the life of the school in the period of her connection with it, not only thru her careful and thoro work as an instructor but by reason of her kindly and helpful personality.

The place vacated by Miss Hubbard will be filled by Miss Polly Fenton, who graduated at the University of Wisconsin in 1906 and at the University of Wisconsin library school in 1909. Miss Fenton was an assistant in the cataloging and reference departments of the Cincinnati public library, 1909-11; was senior cataloger in the Milwaukee public library, 1911-19; was instructor in cataloging in the California State library school, 1919-20; and has been assistant in the reference department of the California state library since September 1920. In addition to her work at the California State library school, Miss Fenton has taught cataloging at the Chautauqua summer schools.

ERNEST J. REECE,  
Principal.

#### New York state library.

The closing exercises for the class of 1921 were held at the school on Friday, June 10. The address was made by Dr A. H. Brubacher, who characterized the librarian as the custodian of the wisdom of the ages and as an indispensable link in our connection with the past. Dr J. I. Wyer, the director of the school, presided, and Mr Frank B. Gilbert, Acting President of the University of the State of New York, conferred the B. L. S. degree on the following eight members of the class of 1921 and three students from earlier classes:

Ruth Graeme Gentles, Rochester, N. Y.; Hung Yu-Feng, Nanking, China; Ellen Armistead Johnson, Knoxville, Tenn.; Lucile Kelling, Centralia, Wash.; Gudrun Moe, Christiana, Norway; Ralph Munn, Denver, Colo.; Rae Stockham, Des Moines, Iowa; Winnifred Wennerstrum, Chariton, Iowa; Glyde Maynard, '19, Los Angeles, Cal.; Edith Lounsbury, '17, New York City; Faith Edith Smith, '00, Los Angeles, Cal.

Florence G. Walker, '21, who has taken the two-year course in one year, had not quite finished on June 10, but completed her work dur-

ing the following week and was granted the degree *in absentia*.

The school is very sorry to announce the resignation of Mary E. Hyde, '02-03, as a member of the faculty. Miss Hyde succeeded Miss Hawkins two years ago as teacher of classification, cataloging and subject headings and has given great satisfaction in the conduct of these courses. She leaves the school primarily to complete a textbook on subject headings on which she has been at work for some time.

Isabelle K. Rhodes, B. L. S. '09, since 1911 on the staff of the Reference department of the New York state library, has been appointed to succeed Miss Hyde. Miss Rhodes was graduated from Smith College in 1907 and was for two years student assistant in the college library. After her first year at the library school she became an assistant to Corrinne Bacon, then instructor in classification, cataloging and other technical subjects, with whom she had experience as reviser. In September, 1910, Miss Rhodes went to the Cleveland public library as assistant in the catalog department, and returned to the State library the following September as assistant in the Reference department.

The following appointments have been made:

#### Class of 1921

Hung Yu-Feng returns to his former position as associate librarian of the University of Nanking, Nanking, China.

Ellen A. Johnson, librarian of the children's department and instructor in the library school, Carnegie library, Atlanta, Ga.

Ralph Munn, head of the reference department, Public library, Seattle, Wash.

Anna May Shepard, assistant cataloger, University of Missouri library, Columbia.

Misses Gentles, Moe and Wennerstrum have temporary positions in the New York state library and Miss Stockham in the circulation department of the New York public library.

#### Class of 1922.

Dorothy A. Abrams, general assistant, University of North Dakota library, Grand Forks.  
Gilbert H. Doane, assistant librarian, University of Arizona library, Tucson.

Ingrid Heum, acting librarian, Norwegian Information Bureau of Trade, Christiania.

Aage Jakobsen, assistant, Public library, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sallie B. Kappes, in charge of the High-school branch of the Public library, Morristown, N. J.

Kathrine Malterud, branch assistant, New York public library.

Doris M. Reed, reference assistant, Columbia University library.

Katherine E. Schultz, assistant cataloger, Vassar College library.

Helen M. Vincent, reference assistant, Wilmington, Del., Institute free library.

Of those who expect to return for the second year, Misses Jakway and Martin and Mr Spettigue have summer appointments on the staff of the New York public library and Miss Perry at Dartmouth College library.

#### Summer school.

The six weeks course for teacher librarians in charge of Sabra W. Vought, State Inspector of School Libraries, opened, July 6.

Word has just been received of the sudden death from pneumonia of May Seymour, '88. Since she left the New York State library in 1906, where she had been associated with Dr Dewey as educational librarian for many years, she had been with him at Lake Placid as editor in charge of the Dewey Decimal Classification. A more extended announcement will be published later.

EDNA M. SANDERSON.

#### Pratt Institute

The school has two encouraging facts to report that will be of general professional interest and that can doubtless be duplicated by library schools all over the country:—first, that the class of 1921 has been placed at better salaries than any preceding class with \$1,414 the average and \$1,500 the median salary, and second, that applications are coming in much more satisfactorily than for several years. The recruiting campaign has doubtless had its effect and it is also more than possible that the business depression has helped the library recruiting campaign.

The Friday afternoon field trips have included the usual visits to public, college, school and special libraries of New York, as well as to the Baker, Taylor and H. W. Wilson Companies, and a



delightful trip to the Madison and Morristown libraries where we were entertained by the trustees of the Madison library. The annual visit to the Country Life Press at Garden City was made memorable this year by wonderful weather and peonies galore.

The following appointments have been made in the class of 1921:

Barksdale, Catherine, assistant librarian, Madison, N. J., Public library.  
 Blair, Nell, loan desk assistant, University of North Carolina.  
 Prink, Nellie C., secretary, Sherwin Cody, New York.  
 Burditt, Margery, head circulation department, Public library, Waterloo, Iowa.  
 Crawford, Mary R., librarian, Connecticut college, New London.  
 Echols, Mrs Ula W., children's librarian, Omaha public library.  
 Johns, Helen, librarian, County library, Bend, Oregon.  
 Kelly, Elizabeth H., reference assistant, El Paso public library.  
 Kindt, Alice J., general assistant, Pratt Institute free library.  
 King, Isabelle A., assistant, Thomas Crane public library, Quincy, Mass.  
 Lambert, Marion H., assistant, St. Paul public library.  
 Metcalf, Helen G., reference librarian, Public library, Waterloo, Iowa.  
 Montgomery, Maude, agricultural librarian, Ames, Iowa.  
 Morey, Jane, traveling libraries, Missouri library commission, Jefferson City.  
 Morsch, Mabel L., assistant catalog department, University of Iowa.  
 Patten, Eunice F., assistant, Macon branch, Brooklyn public library.  
 Saunders, Janet F., assistant cataloger, Princeton university.  
 Smith, Blanche, reviser, Iowa summer school, assistant, Public library, Des Moines, Iowa.  
 Sorensen, Margrethe R., assistant, New York public library.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
 Vice-Director.

#### St. Louis public library

The last week of the school year was devoted to rounding out the courses of the semester. There were also a few miscellaneous lectures and several visits to libraries in other institutions. Mr McMillen, librarian of Washington University, talked on the administration of a college library; Miss Stelle M. Drumm of the Missouri Historical Society library, on the gathering of his-

torical material; Dr E. George Payne, principal of Harrison Teachers college, on "Mental tests" and books relating to the subject. Director Edmund Wuerpel, of Washington University school of fine arts, gave two illuminating talks on the "Psychology of design" and the "Psychology of the poster". Mrs Philip N. Moore, president of the National Council of Women of the U. S. and vice-president of the International Council of Women, described the meeting of the International association at Christiania in 1920.

The class contributed the annotations and a subject bibliography on "Vocational guidance" to the June number of the *St. Louis Public Library Monthly Bulletin*, and the poem which appears on the *Bulletin* cover was written by Miss Catherine M. Jones, president of the class.

The entire class joined the A. L. A. Commencement exercises were held, June 10. Dr Otto Heller, professor of German language and Modern European literature at Washington university, addressed the class on the subject, "The reader at sea." Certificates were awarded by the Director to 16 students, 11 from St. Louis, 2 from Illinois, 2 from Oklahoma and one from Zurich, Switzerland. Twelve are already under definite appointment, the remainder preferring to preface their work with a few months of rest.

A. E. B.

#### Syracuse university.

On May 21, the junior class and the faculty of the school visited the Utica public library.

The senior class had a picnic supper on the afternoon of June 6.

On account of the conflict with the examination period, a talk which had been arranged for with Mrs Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews was necessarily deferred until next year.

There has been on exhibition at the University library during Commencement week a collection of rare books, prints, manuscripts and incunabula.

At the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the university, on June 10,

Miss Thorne, who has been acting librarian and acting director of the library school during the past year, was made librarian and director of the school.

At the meeting of the A. L. A. at Swampscott, the school will be represented by Miss Thorne, Miss Julia Martin, assistant in the reference and loan departments of the library, Miss Doane and Miss Stewart of the library school faculty.

ELIZABETH G. THORNE

#### Texas university

The first class to complete the work of the school receives their certificates the first week in June. Of these, Miss Pauline Tittle of Austin will take charge of the Oak Cliff branch of the Dallas public library, and Miss Louise Franklin of San Antonio will become branch librarian of the Houston Carnegie library.

The regular library course has been extended by lectures given by professors in other departments of the university and several librarians. Among these, was the Importance of preserving local historical material by Dr E. C. Barker, professor of American history and author of the *History of Texas*. His lecture was followed by visits to the Archives of History and to the State library. E. W. Winkler, curator of the Texas Collection and bibliographer of the Littlefield Collection of Southern History, presented the research and buying side of his work. Dr E. L. Bradsher lectured on the conditions of publishing in the American colonies and the class read with interest his chapter in the last volume of the *Cambridge History of American Literature*. Dr A. C. Judson described his experiences in using the British Museum library.

Visiting librarians who described various types of American libraries were Miss Julia Ideson of the Houston Carnegie library, Miss Elizabeth West, State librarian, Mrs S. S. Edwards, Government Research Bureau librarian, and Miss Alice Harrison, librarian of the Austin high-school library.

Visits of inspection were made to a number of libraries. The class has had much pleasure in visiting the Wrenn library, a rare collection of English and American literature composed largely of first editions bound by famous binders. The class assisted in the Austin Children's Book Week.

A training class for teacher librarians will be held, June 14—July 23, under the direction of the principal with some assistants.

ELVA L. BASCOM

#### University of Washington

The course of special lectures has been concluded by a talk on Library architecture by Mr J. T. Jennings of the Seattle public library. In the last three weeks, the class has had the pleasure of hearing addresses by Miss Andrus of the Frederick and Nelson Book Shop, Miss Lewis, head of the circulation department of the Seattle public library, and Miss Stewart, librarian of the public library, Victoria, B. C.

The 11 members of the graduating class are to be the guests of the Library School Alumni association at the fourth annual dinner, on June 10, at the University Commons.

Permanent appointments have been made as follows:

Anna L. Bowles, Seattle public library; Ella Danielson, Tacoma public library; Muriel Grant, Public library, Victoria, B. C.; Marguerite Putnam, Marie Alfonso, University of Washington library.

Temporary appointments in the Seattle public library include Latta Snider, Emily Keith, Fay Woolsey and Jerusha Meigs.

Elizabeth Henry, '18, is reference librarian in the 96th Street branch of the New York public library.

Dorothy Richards, '20, is returning to her home in Tacoma after a year spent in New York, part of the time in the New York public library.

Flora Ludington, '20, has resigned from the University of Washington library and will enter the New York State library school in the fall.

Eleanor Stephens, '14, has taken a leave of absence from the Public library, Yakima, and will go to the New York State library school in September.

Esther Fleming, '14, is an assistant in the Yakima public library.

W. E. HENRY

### University of Wisconsin

The last days of the year brought final examinations as usual, covering the work of the spring quarter. Entrance examinations for the class of 1922 were held on June 10. Candidates who are college graduates are not required to take the written examinations, but meet the other entrance requirements.

H. H. B. Meyer, chief of the Bibliography division of the Library of Congress and vice-president of the American Library Association, came to deliver two lectures before the school in May. These were on Practical Bibliography and on the Library of Congress, the latter was illustrated with slides. J. W. Hitt, state librarian of Washington, visited the libraries in Madison in May and spoke to the students on libraries of the Pacific Northwest.

The class this year elected Mrs J. J. Blaine as their honorary member. She was the guest of honor at the picnic given to the faculty and class by Miss Turvill on the first Saturday in June at her country home. Mrs Blaine entertained the school at a tea at the executive residence preceding commencement, which added a new and pleasant note to the festivities. The class log appeared a few days before the close of school, a new feature for this year being snap shots of each student displaying her poster bulletin.

Commencement exercises were held on Wednesday evening, June 15. Justice Burr W. Jones of the Wisconsin supreme court gave the address speaking on the subject "Women in public life." President Birge gave the charge to the graduates and granted the diplomas.

Additional appointments, Class of '21, are:

Agnes M. Brennan, assistant, children's department, Cleveland public library.

Meta A. Demmler, cataloger, Racine public library.

Mrs Mae H. Dickerson, reference assistant, Ryerson library, Chicago Art Institute.

Mrs R. J. Haxby, librarian, County library, Hood River, Oregon.

Mary A. Holmes, children's librarian, Public library, Winona, Minn.

Nathalie T. Huhn, reference assistant, Indiana state library, Indianapolis.

Margaret A. Quinlan, assistant, Detroit public library.

Mrs Nathalie H. Scribner, children's librarian, Public library, Jacksonville, Ill.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,  
Preceptor.

### Western Reserve university

The out-of-town visit of the students this year, under the personal supervision of Miss Grant, was to Detroit and Ann Arbor. The library system of the city of Detroit provides a most interesting and inspiring object lesson in the administration of its various activities, and especially this year in the opportunity of visiting the handsome new library building just opened. The graduates of the Western Reserve library school who are members of the Detroit Library staff gave a special welcome to the visitors. A day was spent in visiting the University of Michigan library, and there was again the opportunity to see an interesting new building, especially adapted to student and faculty use, where the students enjoyed the hospitality of Mr Bishop and his staff. The week following, the usual visit of the class was made to the Oberlin College library.

During the final weeks of the school, the class was favored with lectures by Mr H. H. B. Meyer of the Library of Congress on the Field of bibliography and Relation of the Library of Congress to other libraries; Paul M. Paine, librarian of the Syracuse (N. Y.) public library, on Library advertising, and also Gilbert O. Ward of the Cleveland public library. Prof Garry Meyers of the Cleveland school of education gave a most interesting talk on his work in the Educational division of the army and drew some interesting conclusions as to Books for the masses gained from that experience.

The subjects for the bibliographies prepared by the class of 1921 were as follows:

- 1 Selected list on Japan.
- 2 Selected list on Russia up to the outbreak of the World War.
- 3 Selected list on Mexico.
- 4 Revolutionary Russia.
- 5 The economic condition of Japan considered as a basis for its present position in international affairs.

Commencement exercises of all of the professional schools of Western Reserve university were held, June 16, the commencement address being made by Sir Auckland Geddes, British ambassador to the United States. Twenty-eight students of the library school received their certificates, 19 being for the general course and nine for the special course in Library work with children.

The annual meeting and dinner of the Alumni association, at which the Class of 1921 were guests, was an unusually interesting occasion; the Brett Endowment Fund was launched with great enthusiasm by the initial gift of \$50 from the class of 1911, which was rapidly followed by gifts from other classes and individuals until a total of almost \$1000 was subscribed in a few minutes.

Appointments for the class of 1921 are as follows: Violet M. Baker, Public library, Hibbing, Minn.; Winifred E. Baum, Cleveland public library; Edna Giesler, Public library, Des Moines, Ia.; Lucille E. Tamm, Cleveland public library; Marjorie W. Jones, married, June 18, to Donald H. Sweet of Chicago; Elsie E. Lehmann, Cleveland public library; Ruth M. Motz, Public library, Helena, Mont.; Helen L. Ranney, Public library, East Cleveland; S. Agnes Ryerson, Public library, Evansville, Ind.; Gladys Spencer, returning to college; Gail Stahl, Public library, Detroit, Mich.; Helen C. Twing, children's work, Cleveland public library; Ella C. Warren, Girl's high-school library, Louisville, Ky.; Dorothy Wightman, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

ALICE S. TYLER.

The Drama League of America will hold a summer institute in Chicago in the Fine Arts building, August 15-27. The close relationship of libraries with the Drama League may make this of interest to many of the former.

### Interesting Things in Print

A pamphlet reciting the story of Book Wagons as factors in the county library with rural book delivery has been issued by the A. L. A. Publishing Board for distribution in those regions where institutions are extending their rural book delivery. A reduced price in bulk is offered.

"The romantic and historic background of agriculture and plant study" is the name of a pamphlet prepared by Caroline Hubbard Bailey of Riverside, California, and issued as *Bulletin No. 175* of the Riverside public library. The list is arranged by subjects and its bibliographical details are lightened by quotations in prose and poetry, while the descriptive notes are bright and attractive.

The A. L. A. has issued a booklet, Library work and opportunity for college women, setting out the form and custom of library service for which training is offered in the standard library schools. Requirements, qualifications, opportunities, financial returns and disadvantages are set out with a reading list. The original article on which this is based appeared under the title, The Librarian, prepared by Miss June R. Donnelly for *Careers for Women*.

An interesting and important document is that issued by the Public library of Providence, Rhode Island, in which is listed "Technical and scientific serials in the libraries of Providence." There are about 2500 titles in the list which will doubtless prove of great value in answering questions as to whether a given volume or number of a serial in the arts and sciences may be found in the Providence libraries.

It was compiled by the various libraries of the city and edited in its present form by F. K. W. Drury, assistant librarian of Brown university.

The Carnegie public library of Ottawa, Canada, has issued a list of books to read to children and for boys and girls to read. Mr W. J. Sykes, librarian of the library, says:

"This is prepared especially for a Canadian library—might not be of much use in a United States library. Is designed as much to guide parents in buying books for their children as in directing library borrowers. The clergy of Ottawa are helping in the distribution of this pamphlet. They believe that to stimulate good reading is a proper line of activity for a church."

John B. Kaiser presented in *School and Society*, May 21, a review of an address of the late Sir William Osler on the occasion of the meeting of the British Classical association in Oxford in May, 1919. The subject, the old humanities and the new science, presented by Dr Osler, is pronounced by Mr Kaiser as follows:

"Regarded as a contribution to the philosophy of conflict in educational thought, it becomes a classic."

The review, both in the contribution of its writer and the quotations from Dr Osler's address, makes very interesting reading.

A piece of beautiful printing and a presentation suitable for a "municipal temple of all faiths" is the number of *Library Service* as a special number for the dedication of the new main building of the Detroit public library, June 3. The paper, text and illustrations are highly satisfactory. The usual address by A. S. is in keeping with the form of its presentation.

"Concord and the Rumford Press" is another piece of good printing, beautifully illustrated. The history of the Rumford Press and the illustrations suitable for its accompaniment make a delightful little booklet, creditable alike as a piece of typographical work and as the history of a deservedly popular enterprise.

What may be fairly called an *edition de luxe* of the longtime librarian's key to difficulties, the L. B. Library supplies catalog, has just been issued. It is the most inclusive edition of that non-exclusive publication, printed on highly calendered paper that brings out the details of the hundreds of illus-

trations which picture library supplies of every kind and description.

Miss Zana K. Miller, librarian of the Chicago Library Bureau, gave personal supervision to the compilation and arrangement of the material in this catalog, with a result most praiseworthy. Samples of blanks, guides, etc., are attached, giving one a chance to examine the material presented in the text. A full index adds much value to the catalog.

A copy of the *Monthly Bulletin* issued by the Publicity committee of the Staff association of the New York public library has been issued. A number of interesting points are made in it.

Twenty-five branches and divisions are listed as having 100 per cent membership in the association.

Miss Weidinger and Miss O'Donoghue were staff association representatives at the A. L. A.

Five hundred members joined or renewed membership between May 1 and June 15.

Two balcony seats available for Wednesday nights during the opera season of 23 weeks are open to members of the staff for one night only to each person until all have had a chance.

The spirit and purpose of the Staff association as shown in this first bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1, is most admirable.

The *Boston Globe*, in referring to the visit of the librarians, stated:

The librarians who are here convening in such unprecedented numbers are educators of astounding scope and versatility. They are switchboard operators in contact with every department of public instruction. Technically, their function is to be able to help people find out what they wish to know. Publically, they are mentors of our reading. They occupy a position of enormous strategic importance which is growing steadily more important. The community is vastly beholden to them and let that debt be acknowledged here and now.

Let us take off our hats as they go by.

Some of the older nations in their sacred writings used the snake as their symbol of regeneration. The snake sheds his old skin and becomes clothed with a new one.—*The New Way*.



### Usefulness Adds Interest

Mr George C. Kingsley, District sales manager of the Library Bureau, Chicago, at the suggestion of the editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, took home with him to read not long since, Pippins and cheese by Charles S. Brooks, as a relaxation and a tonic for weariness.

Mr Kingsley is not much given to philosophy, his particular reading taste running to history and biography. But, having accepted Pippins and cheese, as a docile and interested patient, he sat out on his veranda in the evening to read it.

Before he became *very much* interested, visitors to the house interrupted his reading and he laid down his book to greet his guests. Remembrance of Pippins and cheese passed from his mind for that day, tho in the back of his head, was stirring the query as to what he had done with it. He looked around the premises but found it nowhere in sight, so it occurred to him to ask his wife. She knew nothing about it and passed on the inquiry to the maid-of-all-work of the place.

Here information was obtained as Mrs K. was lead into the neat pantry where, on a shelf, the maid had a collection of books on domestic economy, the latest addition to which was the missing volume, Pippins and cheese. Her explanation was that she thought it was intended for her as something that would give her information on how to serve these delicacies in the latest approved fashion.

### The Manul Process

An invention which is several years old but which did not become generally known or put to use on account of the war is called the Manul process by means of which negatives intended for the manufacture of stereotypes can be obtained with the use of a photographic apparatus—and important saving of time and money.

This can be shown in its use in making reprints of books. Instead of

holding the type or lead as dead stock in trade, or when it is desired to make a new edition, setting up the whole matter anew, by the use of the Manul a set of stereotypes will take the place of the composition. This can be done in all processes which make use of stereotypes as in the reproduction of drawings, music, manuscripts, photographs, paintings in black and in colors, etc.

The prospects for this invention are very great. The experiments in progress with a view to the application of the work of the ordinary typographical presses are very promising.—*La Suisse*.

A recent explanation, tho why one should be called for at this late day is a wearisome conundrum, of why a story teller visits the schools is too good not to be passed around. In speaking of the work done in this regard in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, the following was said by a leading educator:

The staffs of the libraries are frequent visitors in the schools of all districts. This is especially the case in those districts of the city whose population is largely foreign born and foreign-speaking. In one such for instance, in three schools, are numbers of children who never hear the English language spoken except in the school room. The difficulties our language presents to them under these conditions are enormous and consequently their response to our ideas and customs extremely slow.

Frequently at the request of the teacher, a story-teller from the library visits these schools, telling a tale in every room. The novelty of the "strange teacher" from unknown parts, their consuming child's curiosity and the inborn desire not to miss anything that brought them to this country in the first place, all combine to make these children stand on tip-toe to "catch-on" to the stories told them in this way."

A curious contrivance put out by the Drexo Company is the Kalendograph which is in the form of a perpetual calendar. There are a number of interesting things about this such as provision for proving calendar computations, verifying dates, etc., by means of the automatic button.

## Department of School Libraries

### Instruction in the Use of Books\*

Adeline B. Zachert, director of school libraries, Pennsylvania

With increasing regularity, the subject of instruction in the use of books and libraries is finding a place on the programs of teachers' and librarians' meetings.

The first formal step to urge instruction was the report submitted in 1906 at the N. E. A. by a committee of which Dr James H. Canfield was the chairman. Since then there has been slow but steady progress. In some schools, carefully worked out courses of study have been in use for a period of years, but there are still more communities where the idea is entirely new to the school people. The Education committee of the A. L. A. and the survey of library conditions in America under the general chairmanship of Dr Bostwick will do much, it is hoped, to more definitely establish this work.

Instruction in the use of books and libraries was first stressed in the normal schools but soon came demands from the high school and the elementary schools so that at the present time, we have a fairly good working basis for a course extending all the way from the first grade to college.

The course in the lower grades provides for instruction in the care of books and behavior in a library and in upper grades, the practical use of the most important reference helps, the general plan of the Dewey decimal classification and simple problems in the use of the card catalog are given.

The essentials of a course of instruction in the use of books and libraries for high schools are as follows:

How to handle books, Physical make-up of a book, Dictionaries, General encyclopedias, Atlases, Year-books, Classification, Card catalog, Daily newspapers, Magazines, Public

documents, Pamphlets and clippings, Selection of books, Visits to public and other libraries.

Thruout the course, lessons on books in the various classes, such as mythology, art, history, etc., are outlined and directions for problems are given.

The general course in the normal school is similar to that of the high school with greater emphasis, however, on the use of books on methods and pedagogy and stressing thruout the lessons, methods of teaching these later to pupils. A special feature of the course in the normal school is instruction in literature for children and methods of directing the reading of children.

Some excellent outlines in manuals and textbooks have appeared in recent years, among them are the following:

Miss Gilson's Course of study for normal school pupils on the use of a library, Mr Ward's Practical use of books and libraries for high school classes and the Course of study for normal school pupils on literature for children by Mrs Harron, Miss Bacon and Mr Dana. More recently have appeared excellent textbooks by Fay and Eaton and O. S. Rice. A distinct contribution is that of Miss Florence Hopkins in her recently revised outlines. These are now published in a set of pamphlets called Reference guides that should be known and how to use them.

The emphasis and support of instruction in the use of books and libraries has heretofore been given largely by librarians of public libraries.

School people generally do not yet consider the problem of the instruction of use of books as being their own. They are still depending too largely upon the impetus for this work upon librarians. But if it is to be well-done and to become a real factor in the educating of our young people, then it must have a recognized place in the school curriculum. It must not be left

\*Read before School libraries section at Swampscott.

to the option of the individual principal who is rather grudgingly willing to allow an eager librarian to have a few periods in the school program. Not until there is a definite requirement in the course of study will school people plan definitely to have these courses given.

The present problem, it seems, is that librarians, instead of actually giving these courses themselves, use their energies in persuading the superintendent and other school people in authority to include in the course of study a course in the use of books and libraries. Such persuasion is decidedly strengthened when it is endorsed by someone in the State department of public instruction. The education committee of the A. L. A. is now at work urging the appointment in every state of a director of school libraries whose duty it will be not only to organize and supervise school libraries, but to have a share in directing library activities, chiefest of which is that of urging the inclusion of a course of instruction in the use of books and libraries in every curriculum from the elementary schools thru the normal schools. This is part of the program of the Director of School Libraries in Pennsylvania. Prospects are bright that this work will soon become a recognized feature in the general instruction in the schools of the Keystone state.

#### Vacation Reading

The vacation reading contest, "Adventures in Bookland," which the Indianapolis public library conducted last summer, proved so popular with the school children, that it has been decided to hold another one entitled "Further adventures in Bookland" for the children in the grade schools. The books to be read are listed on attractive little folders and are divided into five interesting groups. Nature books predominate, the groups including such books as Burgess Animal Book; Burgess Bird Book; Squirrels and Other Fur Bear-

ers, by John Burroughs; Children's Life of the Bee, by Maeterlinck; Sea Stories Retold from St. Nicholas; Boyhood of a Naturalist, by Muir; and Happy Hunting Grounds, by Roosevelt.

Each child is expected to read at least two books out of each group. A star will be given for each book read and at the end of the summer a diploma will be awarded to each one who has read the required number of books. Any child who wins more than ten stars will receive an honorable mention.

#### School Librarians Meeting

The New England association of school libraries held its annual meeting at the High-School library, Waltham, Mass., May 21, 1921.

The theme of the morning session was Introducing boys and girls to books. This was discussed, from three viewpoints. Miss Catherine S. Hazeltine of the Public high-school, Hartford, Conn., told how the English department, co-operating with the school librarian, allows the pupils to choose their required outside reading from a selected list of modern books of the same style as that used for class work. For instance, when the class was studying Macauley's Life of Johnson each member read a recent biography and gave the rest of the class the value of his reading, often inspiring other members to read the book reviewed. The teacher was included in their number and also read something new which could be given to the class. In this instance, Thayer, Art of biography was used. Among the books mentioned were Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House; Bok, The Americanization of Edward Bok; Hudson, Far Away and Long Ago; Grenfell, Labrador Doctor; Rihbany, Far Journey and Muir, Story of my boyhood and youth. The pupils were introduced to modern essays, poetry, and drama in the same way while studying the same style of literature.

Miss Elinor Whitney of the Book Shop for Boys and Girls, Boston, re-

viewed eight of the new books which could be recommended for young people.

Miss Elizabeth A. Dike of the Winsor school, Boston, told how their list of required summer reading was compiled thru coöperation of teacher and pupil.

In the afternoon, Dr J. M. Brewer of Hartford university in an address on What librarians can do to help in vocational guidance, aroused his hearers to more intensive work in this field. The talk was made practical by detailing the steps to use when directing the young person. Names of books for boys and girls and for teachers to be used at each of these stages were given. In conclusion, he gave some definite advice to librarians. A faculty committee may aid in spreading library propaganda. Such teachers feel more at liberty to offer helpful suggestions and constructive criticism. A student library committee chosen by the pupils may spread library interest among their number. A spirit of pride in their library can thus be fostered which results in increased care of library property. Meetings may be arranged in order to examine books and pamphlets on vocations and to talk over problems with teacher and librarian. The librarian with the teacher may plan debates on vocational subjects and secure speakers who are authorities in their occupations.

For the conclusion of the program, Mrs Louisa C. James read Wilde's *Pawns*.

Officers elected were: President, Miss Mary H. Davis, High-school librarian, Brookline, Mass.; vice-presidents, Miss Mary E. Robbins, Director of the School of library science, Rhode Island college of education, Providence, Miss Clarissa Stowell, High-school librarian, Meridan, Conn.; secretary-treasurer, Miss Edith K. Coulman, High-school librarian, Quincy, Mass.; advisory committee, Mrs Anne W. Congdon, Library visitor, State board of education, Providence, R. I., Miss Mabel Gannett, High-school librarian, Medford, Mass., Miss Ethel E. Kimball, State normal-school librarian, Lowell, Mass.

### School Department in Portland, Ore.

Miss Ruth Paxson of Medford, Oregon, formerly school librarian at Salem, and for the last three years registrar and teacher at the Carnegie library school of Pittsburgh, has been appointed head of the school department of the Portland library. She will assume her duties, September 1.

The crowning event of the school year, from the standpoint of the school department of the library, was the book review program given in library hall on the evening of May 27. At that time, twelve eighth-grade children chosen by competitive contests gave reviews of books they had read during the school year. The program was interspersed with scenes from Robin Hood, *The tempest*, and *Tom Sawyer*. The books reviewed were: *Vanity fair*, *Last of the Mohicans*, *Perfect tribute*, *Lorna Doone*, *Tom Brown's school days*, *John Halifax*, *Ben Hur*, *Ivanhoe*, *Three musketeers*, *The crisis* and *Merchant of Venice*.

Each fall when the schools open, assistants from the school department of the library visit every school in the county, giving the children lists of standard books and telling them that they will come again in the spring to hear reports of their winter's reading. True to their promise, in the spring the librarians again make the rounds of the school and listen to the book reports which usually prove very interesting. It has been found advisable to give the children a sort of form of review which they are to follow in a general way thus saving much time. As a reward, the children are given reading certificates by the library. These do not count as school credits but are simply a formal recognition on the part of the library of the work done by the pupils.

"Own your own home week" was a recent movement in Portland to encourage home building. The city auditorium was filled with many elaborate and interesting exhibits, showing all sorts of things pertaining to home beautifying and comfort. The library exhibit, altho very modest in appearance, having

cost nothing but a little labor and ingenuity, attracted the interest of the crowd, many of whom did not know that the library had books of house plans. In addition to house plans, the display included books on house furnishing, decoration, gardens, pets, children, anything and everything pertaining to the home.

The reorganization of the National Education Association by which it has become the main organization of the teaching profession, membership in which is bestowed on state and local associations of educationalists thruout the country which affiliate with the N. E. A., has been about completed.

There are already 44 state and more than 1,000 local teachers' associations affiliated with the N. E. A. This organization has a combined membership of more than 500,000, a not inconsiderable number to have interested in a constructive program of work.

The meeting at Des Moines, July 3-9, will be the first real working meeting under the new organization. The Des Moines meeting will outline the year's work and it is hoped that a program will be formulated on which every affiliated unit will begin to work at the opening of the new school year.

#### **Recent Bequests to Public Libraries in Rhode Island**

In February, 1921, the Edgewood free public library was absorbed by the William H. Hall public library. This important change took place when the \$500,000 bequest of the late William H. Hall became available.

The Edgewood free public library was established in 1896 largely thru the efforts of the women of the community. It was first opened in an old school house with 800 volumes, but later moved into its own building. From time to time improvements were made, bequests were received and the collection of books has steadily grown.

In the near future, a new building will be erected upon the estate of the late Mr Hall.

During the past 12 years, Miss Alice W. Morse has been the faithful and efficient librarian of the Edgewood library. It is a great satisfaction to her many friends to know that she will continue as librarian of the William H. Hall library.

The Elmwood public library has fallen heir to a bequest of \$125,000 from the estate of the late Miss Edith Knight.

This library was established in 1915 thru the efforts of a group of interested women, who have worked faithfully and unflinchingly for the advancement of this project. During the year 1920-1921 the circulation of the 6,000 books owned by the library was 38,713.

In the near future a new library building will be erected.

The Pontiac free library located in a rural community having about 6,000 books has received a bequest of \$75,000 from the estate of Miss Edith Knight.

#### **District Library Meetings in Indiana for 1921**

The series of district library meetings for the past spring has been one of the most profitable ever conducted in Indiana and were very well attended by librarians and by library trustees as well. At several of the meetings, there were as many as 20 trustees present and participating. The programs had been planned in each case to permit a trustee's hour for round-table discussion and this arrangement proved most happy and successful. In almost all communities, the entertaining libraries had made arrangements with groups of local church women to serve luncheon, Dutch treat (by request) and very bountiful, prettily appointed meals were the result.

Fifteen of the meetings were held—at North Vernon, first, Muncie, Evansville, Bedford, Warsaw, Louisville, Ky., Hammond, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Lafayette, Bluffton, Angola, Noblesville, Grandview and LaPorte. At all of these meetings, the Public Library commission was represented usually by the secretary, and sometimes by other members of the staff as well.



The topics treated by the trustees were varied altho "How to make the district meetings more interesting to the trustee" seemed to arouse the most discussion and the trustees were as keenly interested as librarians in the question-box, the queries and suggested solutions producing many a lively set-to. Other trustee topics were How to make a library board meeting interesting, Preparing a budget of library activities as well as of library finances, Sunday opening, The board members' part in a library's success, The community rest-room as a trustee's problem, Business hints for trustees, Why I am a trustee and Problems of the new library building.

A paper by Miss Harriet Root, assistant organizer of the Commission, on Books for children—standards of selection, was presented at several of the meetings and much appreciated. The discussions were both helpful and interesting. Other topics treated by the librarians were Decorations for special holidays, Apprentice system in small libraries, Increasing standard reading, Local history collections, Library problems in industrial communities, Keeping ahead of the job in a small town, Library extension service, Library instruction in the schools, Pamphlets and fugitive material, Why and how of annual reports, Book wagon results, The library and the farmer (presented by a county agricultural agent), Cataloging problems of the small library, Fitting the book to the reader, Contemporary fiction and County library methods and forms.

WM. J. HAMILTON.

#### St. Louis A. L. A.

The final meeting of the St. Louis local for the year 1920-21 was held at the central building of the St. Louis public library, Tuesday, May 24. The meeting, conducted by Miss Margery Doud of the St. Louis public library, consisted of discussion of the following matters:

Fiction in public libraries; Membership in local chapters of the A. L. A.;

Method of voting in A. L. A. elections; Advisability of having more than one ticket in the field; Selection of places of holding the annual A. L. A. conferences.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that this body go on record as opposed to that section of the proposed Constitution of the American Library Association whereby people may become members of the local chapters of the A. L. A. without joining the A. L. A. itself.

That this body go on record as requesting that the next meeting of the American Library Association be held some place in the Middle West within 12 hours ride of St. Louis—"The City surrounded by the U. S."

The next meeting of the St. Louis A. L. A. local will be held in October, 1921. Those on the committee to take charge of that meeting are: James A. McMillen, Washington University library and Misses Elizabeth Summersby and Ruth Overman of the St. Louis public library.

The chapter has 16 new members, the entire membership of the class of 1921 of the St. Louis Public Library school.

JAMES A. McMILLEN,  
Secretary.

#### Additions to Wisconsin's Commission

The well-known and deservedly popular author of Wisconsin, Miss Zona Gale, has consented to serve her state by becoming a member of the Wisconsin library commission. The other appointment was Senator H. J. Severson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, a lawyer by profession and one who takes much interest in the welfare of his state.

The Wisconsin library commission has had other eminent persons in its membership, writers and publicists, and by the recent appointments, the body still presents an array of ability that ought to go far in keeping its affairs in the front ranks of library progress. Its present membership, both in personal and professional equipment, is of high grade.

### Cambridge History of American Literature\*

The publication of the third and fourth volumes of the Cambridge history of American literature marks the completion of the most comprehensive work, on literature produced within the limits of the United States, ever published. It covers the whole period of our output—Book I Colonial and Revolutionary literature in vol. I, Book II Early National literature in vols. I and II and Book III Later National literature in vols. II, III and IV. It includes the German output of Pennsylvania, New York, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and other cities; the French of Louisiana; the Yiddish centered mostly in New York; and most important of the non-English literature, the Amerind of the aboriginals.

The arrangement and treatment is like that of the Cambridge history of English literature, by topics assigned to separate writers. The 65 chapters contributed by 55 authors represent the best critical thought of America and being about things bookish, afford a mine of most interesting and instructive reading to book lovers, that is to say, American librarians.

The work possesses a particular interest for librarians as the editors were wise enough to include chapters on Colonial newspapers and magazines, 1704-1775. Magazines, annuals and gift-books, 1783-1850. Newspapers, 1775-1860 and since 1860. Political writing since 1850. Economists, Scholars, Patriotic songs and hymns. Oral literature and Publishing. The bibliographies provided in vols. I, II and IV cover in all 626 pages, and there is hardly a writer of significance or a literary topic of interest for which a condensed working bibliography will not be found. These bibliographies alone will make the work of permanent value to all interested in our national literature, among whom are of course all American librarians.

H. H. B. MEYER.

\*4 vols. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

### News from the Field East

Miss Bessie Nelson, Riverside '16, has been employed as cataloger at Yale Law library, Yale university, New Haven, Conn.

Bertha K. Krauss, Pratt, '11, has accepted the position of chief cataloger in the Carnegie free library of Allegheny, Pittsburgh (N. S.), Pennsylvania.

The trustees of the Public library, Boston, Mass., recently adopted resolutions warmly commending the services of William F. Kenney who has retired from the board after a continuous service of 14 years. The board emphasized the fact that during all of this time Mr Kenney has not only been most faithful in attendance on meetings, but has shown a keen interest in the welfare of the library.

The annual report of the Public library of Worcester, Mass., records 260,556 v. on the shelves; circulation, 766,721 v.; number of active borrowers' cards, 33,642; receipts for the year, \$117,083, of which \$98,000 was a municipal appropriation. The expenditures were: Books, \$16,949; binding, \$6,083; salaries, \$69,261. The report emphasizes the great need of a more commodious, modern library building. The work in all departments is retarded for lack of room.

The Harvard University library has received several packing-cases of official war documents and periodicals. These contain a wealth of information which will be of interest to the historian who wishes to study conditions that existed in Germany during the war from first hand material. This collection contains complete files of official military journals and the official newspapers together with files of German revolutionary papers of the winter of 1918-19.

At the recent meeting of the American Medical Association in Boston, the public library of that city prepared and put on view in the exhibit room of its fine arts department an exhibit of early medi-

cal texts illustrating practice in fevers, plagues, etc. The catalog prepared for distribution at the exhibit is in itself a work of art in addition to the valuable and interesting annotations of the 161 items there exhibited.

It was prepared by the Yale University Press in a limited edition of 500 copies, of which 50 copies were on hand-made paper.

Children observed Inauguration day at the Public library, Rochester, N. H., by guessing "Who's who" among the presidents. The portrait of every president of the United States was posted on the bulletin boards and children were invited to guess them. Books which would aid them were placed in conspicuous places and the children were referred to the card catalog as a good place to find the correct name of the presidents. Thus the contest served not only to entertain the children but taught them where to find information. As a result many children took out books about the presidents.

This was the seventh in a series of contests held during the winter. The final one for the year was in identifying birds from their pictures. During the afternoon, each child was asked to report on birds seen during the coming summer and to come to the library for help in naming them.

#### Central Atlantic

The New York state library is to be closed on Sundays owing to the failure of the legislature to make sufficient appropriation to keep it open.

Mary Adelaide Eastman, Pratt, '16, was married on June 11, to William Harrison Severns at Waterville, New York.

The Board of Trustees of the public library of Paterson, New Jersey, have voted that all regular assistants be given four weeks vacation this year.

The Mynderse library of Seneca Falls, New York, has received a bequest of \$39,840 from the estate of the late Frances Irene Depew.

Roberta M. Doxsee, Pratt '19, formerly on the staff of the Pratt Institute free library, has been appointed acting librarian of the Public library, Bound Brook, N. J.

Catharine S. Oaks, Ill. '12, has resigned her position as assistant librarian in the State teachers college, Kearney, Nebr., and will be at her home in Geneva, N. Y., for some time.

The old Astor library building of New York City has been turned into a citizens' school under the direction of the Hebrew Shelter and Aid Society and will be used as an Americanization center for immigrants of the Jewish faith. Classes in citizenship, an employment department and social relations will be the lines of activity followed in this historic structure.

The annual report of the Public library of Brooklyn, New York, records the number of volumes on the shelves, 972,727; circulation, 5,479,154 v.; number of registered borrowers, 339,612; population served, 2,022,262; number of agencies, 406; income, \$706,446; expenditures, \$675,591—of this, for books and periodicals, \$126,624; bindings, \$34,999; library service, \$322,283; other service, \$51,478.

The Pratt Institute free library in Brooklyn celebrated the twenty-fifth birthday of the children's room as a separate entity in its library service. The Pratt Institute library was opened in 1888 and almost from the beginning, it has been a center of good library influence, not only for children's work, but as Mrs Margaret Deland, who was the speaker at the dedication of the new building 25 years ago, said, "This library is a social institution."

In the midst of a crowded section of the city, it has open spaces around it and park-like arrangements which are open to all who care to avail themselves of its privileges. The technical reference room, as well as the children's room, has been an incentive and a help to other libraries. The children's porch at the entrance to the

children's room is one of the art interests of the city.

Dr Frank P. Hill, librarian of the Brooklyn public library, entertained 65 members of the library staff and four members of the Board of Trustees on Friday afternoon, June 3, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of his coming to be librarian. The staff members represented those who had been in the Brooklyn library system from 15 to 22 years.

Dr Hill described the growth of the library since 1897 when there were six employees, no building, an annual circulation of 66,400 v. and an appropriation of \$5000.

Today the circulation is about 6,000,000 v. distributed from 31 branches, 20 of which are in Carnegie buildings, 4 stations, 9 deposit stations and many traveling libraries. There are 400 employees on the staff and the appropriation for 1921 is \$709,679.

President Boody of the Library Board gave a tribute to the services rendered by Dr Hill, as did R. Ross Appleton, treasurer, Theodore L. Frothingham and Simeon Chittenden, all of whom have been trustees of the public library for many years.

#### Central

The increased library tax asked for in Minneapolis was voted by a large majority in the election last month.

Provision for a library of 10,000 v. has been made for Concordia college by the American Luther league of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Grace Mildred Murray, Illinois, B. L. S. '20, reviser at the Illinois library school, has resigned her position and will be assistant branch librarian in one of the Detroit branches.

Elizabeth K. Clark, Pratt '07, cataloger of the library of the University of Idaho, has accepted the position of chief cataloger in the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul.

Minnie E. Sears, Illinois '00, who has been spending the winter in the South-

west, sailed for Europe in April to spend the summer months. Miss Sears was accompanied by Miss Isadore G. Mudge of the Columbia University library.

Leila B. Wilcox, Illinois '13-14, for a number of years first assistant in the branches department of the Library association of Portland, Oregon, has resigned that position to become branch librarian in one of the foreign districts of Gary, Indiana.

The children's department of the Indianapolis public library will coöperate with the Municipal recreation department this summer in work on playgrounds. All story-telling will be under the supervision of the supervisor of children's work, Carrie E. Scott. The library is to furnish 100 books each for 12 playgrounds.

Miss Grace Estes, librarian of the Public library of Antigo, Wisconsin, for the past three years, has resigned her position and will enter the University of Wisconsin in the fall. Miss Edith A. Rechsylg, a graduate of the Wisconsin library school, who has been librarian at Stanley, Wisconsin, will succeed to the position.

The Public library of Pullman, Illinois, which has been supported by the late Mrs George M. Pullman, by the terms of her will was committed to the care of the trustees of the Pullman technical high school. Miss Bertha S. Ludlam, who has been librarian for a number of years, will remain in that position assisted by Miss Margaret Vilas, librarian of the Pullman high school, and Miss Beatrice Corkery. Mr John Brown will act as librarian in the evening.

The annual report of the Public library, Fort Dodge, Iowa, records the following: Circulation, 114,598 v.; population, 19,333; registered borrowers, 7,690; books on the shelves, 20,934; expenditures, \$16,374.

A number of lectures were held in the library and library work was presented by talks to the schools and the general public. Instruction in the use of library material and aids was given to an

enrolled group of 400. Isabella Caldwell Hopper is the librarian.

Harold L. Wheeler, who for five years has been librarian at the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla, has been appointed librarian of the Hackley library, Muskegon, Mich., to begin work, September 1.

Mr Wheeler began his library work in the Public library of Providence, Rhode Island. He is a graduate of Brown university and of the New York State library school. He was librarian of the Hamilton Fish branch of the New York public library and was for some time on Mr Bishop's staff in the Library of Congress. Mr Wheeler also served for four months at Camp Humphrey, Virginia.

At the dedication of the public library of Detroit, Michigan, June 3, the following distinguished visitors took part in the ceremonies: Bishop Charles D. Williams, D. D.; Mr Cass Gilbert, architect; President Divie B. Duffield of the Detroit library commission; Governor Alexander J. Groesbeck; Dr Marion L. Burton, president of the University of Michigan; Mayor James Couzens of Detroit; President Joseph S. Stringham of the Board of Education of Detroit; William J. Gray, and Bishop Michael J. Gallagher, D. D.

Official and unofficial leaders of Detroit's life in civic, educational and professional lines were numbered among the guests. The exercises took place on the grounds of the library building.

The fiscal year of the Public library, Galesburg, Ill., ending March 31, 1921, was the busiest year in the history of the institution, the statistics of circulation showing a substantial increase. Number of books in the library, 54,462; circulation, for home use, 125,967, or 5.2 books per capita and 18 books per borrower; reference use, 61,741; total recorded use of books, 187,708.

An outstanding achievement of the year was the establishment of hospital service, each of the two local hospitals being visited twice a week by members

of the staff and reading matter furnished the patients and nurses. The appreciation and enthusiasm which has been accorded this service by those receiving it has made it one of the most worth-while endeavors of usefulness that the library has attempted.

Three interesting exhibits have been displayed in the Indianapolis public library during the past month. Unusual interest centered in the Iris exhibit, which was furnished by Indianapolis gardens and included over 40 varieties of the flower and attracted many visitors. Most of the credit for the success of the exhibit is due Margaret Griffith, a member of the staff of the library. Miss Griffith is a member of the American Iris society and this month attended the national convention of the society held in Columbus, Ohio.

Another rather unusual exhibit was the display of articles made in the Vocational Training department of the Indianapolis public schools. The exhibit included cabinet-making, millinery, dress-making, needlework and costume design.

The library has been fortunate in having on display for two months the exhibit of official framed pictures taken by the U. S. Signal Corps illustrating the activities of the A. E. F. in Europe.

Mrs Anna E. Safford who has long been "the helping hand" of the Public library, Cairo, Ill., died at her home there, June 18, aged 84 years.

She was a pioneer for the good of her city educationally. In 1884, before the days of Carnegie gifts, she bought a city block and built thereon a library building and deeded it all to the city for a public library. She lived to see much fruit from her wise expenditures.

#### South

Mr Jesse Cunningham, librarian of the Public library, St. Joseph, Missouri, was married to Miss Grace Winifred Norwood, June 18, at Lebanon, Indiana.

Leora B. Mabbott, Illinois '00-01, has resigned her position in the catalog department of Indiana university to accept the head of the catalog department at Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas.



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The annual report of the Public library of Dallas, Texas, records a registration of 34,669 borrowers in a population of 174,025 and a circulation of 253,073 v.—of this, 163,844 v. were fiction. Number of agencies, 11; number of volumes on the shelves, 65,238; receipts, \$32,560; expenditures, \$30,005—of this \$7,284 was spent for books and \$13,800 for library service.

A note from Mr Lloyd W. Josselyn, director of the Public library of Birmingham, Alabama, voices an expression of great joy at the successful inauguration of a movement for county library service in his vicinity.

"The Board of Revenue before a delegation of 487 people from 47 communities in Jefferson county made an annual appropriation of \$10,000, commencing November 1, for county library service . . . One of the real library joys of my life has been the experience of the last three weeks, driving over 1000 miles in the county, visiting 45 schools and 65 communities, meeting and talking to teachers, miners, mine superintendents, wives, mothers, children, farmers and store-keepers. President J. W. Donnelly and other members of the Library Board, Miss Lila May Chapman, vice-director, and all of the members of our library staff deserve much credit."

The first annual report of the Georgia Library commission shows a traveling library established, a survey made of public library conditions in the state, a survey of the reading facilities of the state institutions and library extension work thru visits, correspondence, and publicity well under way.

The public library survey shows that there are 30 public libraries supported in whole or in part from public funds. In addition to the 30 libraries already open, there are several new libraries, with buildings completed, practically ready to open; 7 counties contribute to the support of public libraries; 36 libraries are maintained by clubs and associations, the majority of them charging a subscription fee; 23 libraries occupy Carnegie buildings, while 11 are in buildings acquired from some other source.

Of the 26 cities of Georgia of over 5000 population, 15 support libraries wholly from city funds, 3 contribute to the support of association libraries, leaving 8 cities of over 5000 which do not appropriate any public funds for library purposes.

By a generous estimate, 20 per cent of the white population has access to some general collection of books. There are 103 counties without a library of any sort within their borders.

Savannah is at present the only place supplying public library service to negroes. It has a negro library in a Carnegie building, with a book collection of 4000 volumes. A handsome Carnegie building is in process of erection in Atlanta to be used as a negro branch.

#### West

Gertrude Davis, St. Louis, '18, has been appointed assistant librarian, State normal school, Peru, Nebraska.

Miss Linda M. Clatworthy, who has been spending a period in the East at the State library of New Hampshire has been called back to the librarianship of the University of Denver. She will spend the summer in Estes Park and enter upon her new duties in September.

Miss Geneva Brock, Riverside '16, is announced as the new state librarian of Wyoming. Miss Brock was formerly with the Public library in Cheyenne, at Madera county free library, California, at Fresno county free library, California, in the camp library work with office in the Public library, El Paso, Texas, and United States Naval Hospital library, Fort Lyon, Colorado.

The annual report of the Kansas City public library has been issued in a leaflet of convenient size, carrying the essential points that would be of interest to the general public. Number of volumes on the shelves, 281,294; number of volumes lent for home use, 880,479; total school circulation, 146,347 v.; population served, 324,410; registered borrowers, 70,125; books and periodicals, \$26,649; binding, \$10,034; salaries, \$82,791; branches, 13; schools, 194; total agencies, 198; staff, 94.

## Mechanical Books Sent On Approval

We specialize in practical text and reference books for the mechanic. They have been written by experts who know how to tell the other fellow just what to do. Librarians who are catering to the needs of the mechanics among their readers will find it worth while to look over our books. A few of them are listed below. Just check those you would like to see and they will be forwarded prepaid at 15% discount and without any obligation on your part to keep them. Check opposite the titles wanted.

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**Pacific coast**

Los Angeles voted a bond issue at a recent election by which that city is assured of a central library building of its own.

Miss Harriet Messenger, formerly on the staff of the Riverside public library, is now substituting for the librarian of the Franklin high-school of Los Angeles.

Miss Rosa Cage, Riverside '19, has been appointed librarian of the Riverside girls' high-school, taking the place of Arline Davis, Riverside '15, who will probably go into county work.

Ralph Munn, a graduate of the New York State library school, has been appointed reference librarian of the Seattle public library to succeed Charles H. Compton, who has gone to the St. Louis public library as assistant librarian.

Mrs Mabel F. Faulkner, Riverside '16, in charge of the lending system, Riverside public library, including the county free library records and the branch and extension work of the Riverside county library, will sail from San Francisco for Honolulu on August 31, steamship *Wilhelmina*. She will take a position in the library of the Punahou school, formerly known as Oahu college.

"A Woman's Honor" by Susan Glaspell was produced recently by a chosen band of Portland librarians for the entertainment of the rest of the staff. Miss Nelly Fox, branch librarian, was the promoter of the production and by unanimous vote, the star performer, her part being that of the Silly One. Miss Ethel Sawyer, director of the training-class, as stage manager shared the honors with Miss Fox. "The greatest Jazz orchestra in the library world" to quote the ringing words of the press agent, furnished delectable music. Said orchestra was the training-class. Other actors of note were Martha Rosentrater as the Prisoner, Helen McRaith as the Lawyer and Leila Wilcox in the role of the Mercenary One.

**Wanted**—A copy of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, No. 9, Vol. 25 (November, 1920). Send with bill to office of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

**Wanted**—A children's librarian. Salary \$100 a month. Position permanent. Apply to Mrs Charles Seem, 1220 9th Ave., Greeley, Colo.

**Wanted**—Extension librarian for library beginning county work. Salary to depend on training and experience. Apply, Public library, Rochester, Indiana.

**For Sale**—Children's book puzzles for newspaper library columns, 10c each. Address Clara Louise Kessler, Withers library, Bloomington, Illinois.

**Wanted**—Copies of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for January and February, 1921, for completing files. Premium will be paid for these. Send with bill to PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 6 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

**Position Wanted**—Cataloger with four years' experience in college and public library work, and with a knowledge of French, German and Spanish, wishes position in the East. Could begin in August or September. Address: S.O., care Susan Walker, 567 Orange Street, New Haven, Conn.

## NOTE

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